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NINTH ROUND OF TALKS OVER LAC STAND-OFF UNDER WAY

The Corps Commander-level talks to address the situation in Eastern Ladakh began at Moldo on Chinese side on Sunday

INDIA FIRM ON DEMANDING STATUS QUO ANTE

While India is demanding that China pull back its troops from all stand-off points and restore status quo ante along the Line of Actual Control, the latter wants India to first withdraw its soldiers deployed on strategic heights on the southern bank of the Pangong Tso lake. Indian jawans continue to hold their positions despite the merciless Himalayan winter

TIES IN 'DIFFICULT PHASE' DUE TO CHINA

- On December 9 last, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had said 'five differing explanations' by China for its deployment on the LAC had pushed bilateral ties into its most difficult phase
- It's not a problem of lack of communication. The fact is there are ample pacts but the other side is not following them, he said

Round 8
OF BILATERAL TALKS HAD TAKEN PLACE ON NOVEMBER 6

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Concern over proposal to tie forests to WPI

Formula has been suggested in draft to panel

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

IN what is being seen as a severe threat to the country's green cover, the Union environment ministry has proposed that forests be treated as tradable commodity having value as per the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), to cut down the cost of diversion of pristine forests for infrastructure projects.

In a draft note on the revision of the Net Present Value (NPV) of forest land diverted for non-forest purposes sent to a Committee of Secretaries (CoS), the ministry on January 22 suggested the interim arrangement of aligning the rates with the WPI till the information sought for revision in NPV rates as proposed by experts of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, are compiled.

"Keeping in view that more than three years had elapsed since the NPV came into force, the MoEF&CC proposed to revise it based on the WPI," said the ministry in the draft.

The sticking point was articulated in clause 1.30 of the note. It said the IIFM had proposed scaling up NPV rates by as much as four times the existing figures, and warned that the higher tariff could impact ongoing power and other infrastructure sector projects. To soften the blow, the ministry is seeking to align the rates with WPI, as the escalation that way would not be as steep.

However, experts expressed concern over the proposed system because high NPV rates are meant to be a deterrent, but WPI is a facilitator. Kanchi Kohli, Legal Research Director at CPR-Namati Environment Justice Program, said: "This proposal further embeds forests as a commodity to be traded through instruments such as the WPI. It is not focused at protecting forests or forest rights. Ironically the success of this exercise is only dependent on more forests being lost."

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32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID) AND 4 OF CITY EXPRESS

QUARRIES RAIDED IN MANDYA DISTRICT

Several stone quarrying and crushing units in Channakere and Karadahalli villages of Mandya district were raided on Sunday and hundreds of electric detonators and gelatin sticks were seized by the district authorities.

EXPLOSIVES MAY HAVE LANDED IN SHIVAMOGGA FROM ANDHRA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga, Bengaluru

COMING under attack from the Opposition for his remarks on regularising illegal stone quarries in the state, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Sunday stressed that only those unauthorised mines which meet regulations can apply for regularisation and it will be considered as per law.

The officials will conduct a spot inspection and permission will be given only if it does not cause any inconvenience to people, he said.

The CM said the problem of illegal mining is widespread and added that he has given directions to district deputy commissioners to stop all illegal mining with immediate effect. "This problem is prevalent not only in Shivamogga, but across the state," he rued.

A case in point is Gadag district where there are 65 legal quarries near Adrahalli, Nelugal, Chennapattana and Nadihalli villages, as per the records of Mines and Geology Department. Of these, 49 quarries are operating while the Gadag Forest department has issued notice to six quarries and 10 other quarries have stopped working. However, villagers say that there are many illegal stone quarries in the region and locals have also witnessed minor accidents.

Meanwhile, the preliminary investigation into the blast at a stone-crushing unit at Hunasodu near Shivamogga on Thursday night has indicated that the explosives was brought from Andhra Pradesh. FULL REPORT: P4

FAMILIES OF BLAST VICTIMS CLUELESS

Two of the six workers who died the Hunasodu explosion, were the sole bread-winners for their families. The kin of Manjunath (35) say they do not even know what what kind of job he was doing. The family of Praveen (36) too are clueless about how he died.

GREEN CARPET

Chepauk pitch to have 'English' look for Tests

VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Chennai

V RAMESH KUMAR has an MBA in international business. Growing up in Tiruppur – India's textile hub—he wanted to be an athlete. He even represented Tamil Nadu in 100m hurdles in open nationals. An entrepreneur who runs a garment and dying factory which employs around 700 people, these days he is camped in Chennai for some other reason.

Ramesh, 43, a certified BCCI curator, will oversee the pitch preparation for India's upcoming two Tests against England from February 5 at MA Chidambaram Stadium. He might be young for a curator but, in TN cricket, he already has a reputation for making sportive wickets.

Ramesh was the one who laid turf wickets at Salem, Tiruppur and Coimbatore: all BCCI approved venues to host first-class cricket. It was this trait that made TNCA give him this huge responsibility. The Chepauk pitch, over the couple of seasons, has come under criticism, including from MS Dhoni for its slow nature.

The last time Chennai hosted a Test match in 2016, it provided a flat strip and a repeat of it would also affect India's chances of making it to the Word Test Championship final. P5

UP diesel sale bar to stymie farm rally lifted

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

A circular issued by the Gazipur police in eastern Uttar Pradesh advising fuel outlets not to tank up tractors ahead of the proposed farmers' parade in New Delhi was withdrawn after it drew flak on social media on Sunday.

Ghazipur SP Om Prakash Singh sought to play down the circular, claiming it was issued by a station officer two days ago. "It has been withdrawn," he added.

The circular issued by station officer of Sohawal in Ghazipur refers to the 'high alert' ahead of the farmers' rally, and tells fuel outlet owners not to sell diesel to tractors. P7

EXPRESS READ

Wife accuses MUDA chief of murder attempt

Bengaluru: The wife of Mangaluru Urban Development Authority Commissioner G T Dinesh Kumar has filed a complaint against him for allegedly trying to kill her, besides harassing her for dowry. The police have registered a case against him. P5

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ALMANAC TODAY
• **Monday:** 25/01/2021 • **Year:** Sarvari • **Ayana:** Uttharayana
• **Ritu:** Himantha • **Masa:** Pausha • **Paksha:** Sukla • **Tithi:** Dwadashi 10.49 pm
• **Nakshatra:** Mrigashira 12.51 am • Moon in Mituna Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER — MIN 16°C | MAX 29°C
FORECAST Afternoon clouds

Sunrise 6.46 am | Sunset 6.17 pm | Moonrise 3.16 pm | Moonset 3.37 am

EDUCATION MATTERS

Report: 2020 saw a dip in accidents, deaths

Most pedestrians were knocked down while crossing road

DANGEROUS SUNDAYS

The highest number of fatal accidents occurred between 6 pm to 9 pm in 2018 and 2019, while in 2020, 110 accidents occurred from midnight to 6 am, followed by 108 between 6-9 pm

Most of the fatal accidents were reported on Sundays in the last three years, while least were reported on Saturdays

In 2018, drunk driving was responsible for 1,756 fatal accidents, while 1,672 such cases were reported in 2019. In 2020, 1,312 cases were reported

Most of the fatal accidents occurred after vehicles rammed into another one from the rear

Most fatal accidents were due to rash driving

Head and facial injury caused

75-80% of deaths

HELMETS A MUST

In 2018,

137

two-wheeler commuters (pillion riders included) who died in accidents were found not wearing helmets. The number remained the same in 2019, while it decreased to 103 in 2020.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE number of accidents and deaths are declining in the city. And the year 2020 saw fewer accidents and deaths compared to 2018 and 2019, reveals data from the City Traffic Police.

The traffic police have come up with a detailed analysis on road accidents and deaths in Bengaluru city for the last three years --- 2018 to 2020.

In 2018, 870 people were killed in 846 fatal accidents, while 832 were killed in 810 fatal accidents in 2019. Compared to 2018, the number of accidents and deaths in 2020 decreased by 214 and 213 respectively. In 2020, 657 people lost their lives in 632 accidents. The numbers include self accidents. While 178 and 144 people were killed in self accidents in 2018 and 2019 respectively, 164 people were killed in 2020.

According to the report, on average, 162 people have been killed in self accidents in these years. The death rate among men and women aged between 21 -40 is the highest, while most of the accused in the accident cases are also aged between 21-40 years. Similarly, most of the deceased and accused in accidents had education up to high school.

The gender and age-wise division of victims of road accidents reveal that more men aged between 21-30 years have lost their lives in accidents, including self accidents. On average, 525 men and 100 women have lost their lives in the three years and the majority of them were aged between 21-40 years.

Also, the statistics reveal that most of the deceased had completed or dropped out of high school, while the rate of death among the educated class (those who had higher education like post-graduation, medical and technical education) was less. As many as 205, 206, and 159 people, who had studied highschool, were killed in accidents in 2018, 2019, and 2020 respectively and the reports suggest that 'higher the person is educated, the chance of death in an accident is less'.

The profession-wise details state that people working with private companies and running businesses have died more in numbers in these years, while it is very less among retired government employees.

Among the deceased pedestrians, most were knocked down while they were crossing the road at a designated place. As many as 129 and 120 people were killed while they were on a pedestrian crossing in 2018 and 2019 respectively. In 2020, 82 people were killed and lockdown could be the reason for the decline in the numbers, the report said.

5 yrs gone, residents await water connection

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

NEARLY five years after paying the full deposit of Rs 3.8 crore to the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) for new Cauvery water connections, 608 houses at Gokulam Apartments in Doddakallasandra are yet to get piped Cauvery water.

Now, BWSSB wants the residents to pay Rs 4 crore more for the connection. As the standoff continues, the water tanker business is flourishing.

A resident, requesting anonymity, said, "Between 2008 and 2012, many owners started moving in. A BWSSB order issued in 2014 fixed Rs 2,77,59,320 as the pro-rata charges (one-time payment for new water and sanitary connections) and Rs 1,01,16,334 as Beneficiary Capital Contribution, specially levied for newly added BBMP areas. Payment deadline was March 2016."

But on March 24 that year, BWSSB doubled the pro-rata charges from Rs 200 per square metre to Rs 400. "The Association got special permission from then Chief Secretary T M Vijay Bhaskar to pay charges based on the previous rate within four days and the amount was handed over on March 28. But due to heavy rush at the BWSSB office, a payment receipt was not issued. The next day, we got an acknowledgement of our DD and received the receipt on March 30," another resident said.

"The one-day delay on the part of BWSSB in giving us the proof of payment is the reason why we are in trouble today. The water board now wants us to pay the revised fee, which is another Rs 4 crore," he added.

Members of the Gokulam Apartment Owners' Welfare Association have made repeated visits to the BWSSB head office, filed a case in the High Court and sought help from leading politicians, including MP Tejasvi Surya, but in vain.

BWSSB Chairman N Jayaram told TNIE, "We had issued a Demand Note asking house owners to pay us an additional sum of nearly Rs 4 crore due to increase in charges. If they do so then we can provide the water and sanitary connection. Their payment was delayed and we are merely following what the law allows us to do."

He said, "The high court ruled in our favour and asked us to issue a Speaking Order to the residents detailing why the extra amount needs to be paid."

THE WATER MIRAGE

A child runs past a mural painted by an artist to raise awareness on the looming water crisis in Bengaluru | MEGHANA SASTRY

KIA to be partially shut for Aero India

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

JUST like previous Aero India editions, the Kempegowda International Airport will partially shut operations for a week due to the closure of airspace over Bengaluru. Beginning a few days before the show and till its conclusion, the airport will not operate flights for a total of 33 hours.

The biennial air show and aviation expo will be held from February 3 to February 5 at the Air Force Station at Yelahanka. The partial closure will begin on January 30 and will continue till February 5, and the daily closure ranges from a minimum of three hours to a maximum of six hours a day. According to an airport source, the South Runway, the only runway operating t present, will be closed.

The NOTAM (Notice to Airmen), which contains information on change in any aeronautical facility, stated, "As a consequence of airspace closure in connection with Aero India Show 2021, KIA will be closed for aircraft operations."

HERE ARE DETAILS

JAN 30	1.30 pm to 4.30 pm
JAN 31	1.30 pm to 4.30 pm
FEB 1	10 am to 12 noon & 2 pm to 5 pm
FEB 2	9 am to 12 noon & 2 pm to 5 pm
FEB 3	9 am to 12 noon & 2 pm to 5 pm
FEB 4	10 am to 12 noon & 2 pm to 5 pm
FEB 4	10 am to 12 noon and 2 pm to 5 pm

E-bookings for airport buses still low

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THOUGH it has been more than a month since Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) started online booking to boost occupancy on Vayu Vajra buses, there are few takers for the previously popular and profitable service.

Last month, only 63 bookings were made online. "Of these, 47 tickets were booked on buses running from different parts of the city to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), while 16 were booked in the reverse direction. This month (up to January 18), we have only 43 such bookings," a senior BMTC official said.

However, he pointed out that it was part of an overall trend of passengers declining. "Currently, we carry around 5,000 passengers. It used to be nearly 12,000 before the pandemic. The number of buses plying now are just 61, compared to 120 before March," he said. Meanwhile, two routes -- Kempegowda bus station to KIA and Electronics City to KIA -- continue to remain the most popular.

"The decline in ridership is an offshoot of the decline in air passengers because of the pandemic," he added.

BMTC is charging Rs 10 for booking tickets online.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

25th January: The whole solar system is in a state of excitement as a series of powerful planets form vibrant celestial relationships. But what exactly is the outcome? Most astrologers are able to predict uncertainty: that's easy! However, when we look at world affairs, it's extremely difficult to be more precise. Anything could happen!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
The Sun, symbol of life, sends plenty of surprises. There's one simple forecast: expect the unexpected. If I were you, I'd get out my day-to-day survival kit and work through the next week with my head down. Partners will be in a forthright mood and deft footwork will be necessary if you are to come through unscathed!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Family pressures are certainly stirring things up, but just for now I imagine that significant developments are bubbling away below the surface. Get on and keep up to date with routine chores, otherwise you may lose control. Actually, there's no time like the present for taking on fresh responsibilities.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
A few quick quips at someone else's expense may be your idea of fun, but I'm not sure if that's the best way to exploit Mars' sharp and uncompromising power. A little generosity would suit you well. After all, you have nothing to fear. You'd do best to take a cool, practical approach, by the way.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
It is difficult to imagine more helpful stars than those which currently occupy your chart. Your lunar picture is profoundly auspicious, especially for those of you who are having a party this weekend. Plus, a secret ambition will move one very discreet step forward.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
A great deal of your legendary charm relies on the location of that graceful sign, Libra, in your solar chart. According to your current patterns and alignments, your sales pitch is about to reach an all-time peak. Now is the time to persuade reluctant partners.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You are in a really good state to take a leap into the unknown. I know it's not in your nature to throw caution to the wind, but do try! You have no idea what will happen unless you open yourself to the new and untried. One word of advice, though: before you take a gamble, you have to work out the consequences!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
It's always difficult to leave the past behind but, for various reasons, you probably feel prepared to bid farewell to one close association. I suspect this is because somebody has given you such a rough ride, that you'll be happy to see the back of them! It's time to stick to your guns.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Hope springs eternal, and with so many planets presenting a mysterious face, that is precisely what you need. Or, perhaps, I should say that you could use a few good ideas. With the right moves you may also give hope to others, and there is no better way to use your current planetary energy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Socially you should be on a winning streak or, at least, you will be if you stop worrying about things like money and how much life is costing. The chances for a dreamy, soft-focus encounter really are splendid. But passions are also rising and colleagues could be argumentative.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
You are back to thinking that nobody loves you, but this is very far from the case. Let's look at the positive faces of your solar chart, starting with the fact that worldly ambitions are about to take a quantum leap forward. But first you have to complete a number of fundamental arrangements.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Although your own intentions may be above reproach, don't criticise others whose standards seem to slip. Remember the old teaching about throwing stones. Never be the first to throw one unless you are absolutely blameless. In other words, don't criticise others when you are equally responsible.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Entrepreneurial and self-employed types are on an upwave. All of you are likely to benefit from windfalls. I'm not saying you'll be showered with gold from heaven, but you must end the week with future prosperity in your sights. Take no financial risks at all.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

DO YOU REMEMBER BORROWING MY NEW SPORT COAT A FEW WEEKS AGO?
OF COURSE, BUT I HAVEN'T WORN IT YET BECAUSE IT'S KIND OF TIGHT
SO WHY HAVEN'T YOU RETURNED IT?
WELL...
TOOTSIE STARTED ME ON A PRETTY GOOD DIET

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SUDOKU

			9	6				3
		4	1					
						4	9	5
4	1			9			3	2
7								9
3	2			7			5	4
8	9	7						
					8	9		
5				4	9			

HARD

- Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.
- Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

4	8	7	5	3	2	9	6	1
1	3	5	6	7	9	4	8	2
6	9	2	1	8	4	3	7	5
2	5	8	7	9	1	6	3	4
9	1	4	3	6	8	2	5	7
3	7	6	4	2	5	8	1	9
8	6	1	2	4	7	5	9	3
5	2	3	9	1	6	7	4	8
7	4	9	8	5	3	1	2	6

JUMBLE — THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RUBYL

PAATD

SJYULT

MOONDI

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____ _____ (Answers Monday)

Saturday's Jumbles: AGILE HOARD FERRET DOCKET
Answer: The artist initially struggled to learn how to create metal sculptures, but she — FORGED AHEAD

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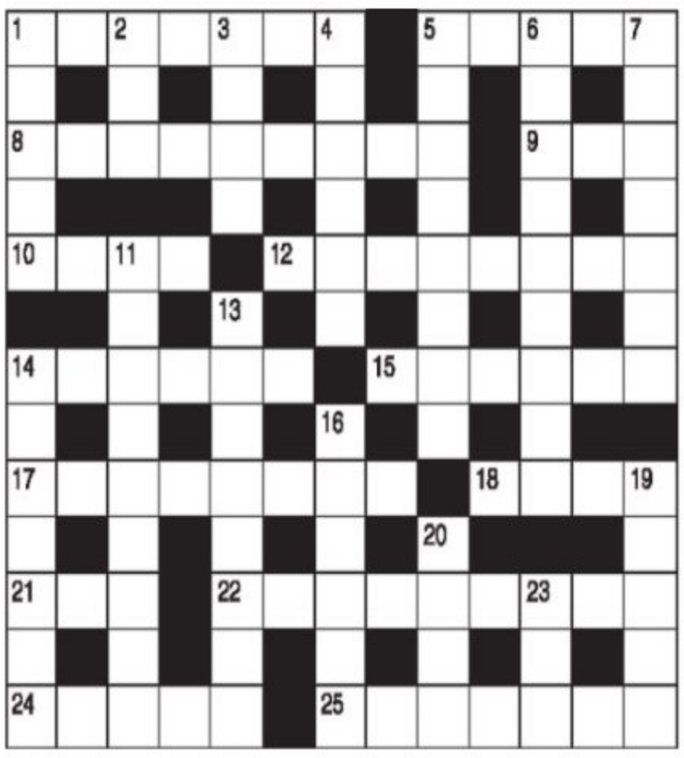
CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 Window-cleaner found in the mountains (7)
5 Saucy thing to cut (5)
8 Set up organisation for education and research (9)
9 I'm quiet - but he probably won't be (3)
10 Seasonal slump in America? (4)
12 Useful people showing diplomacy in studies (8)
14 Unrefined and hearty possibly (6)
15 They're drawn out in G sharp perhaps (6)
17 It holds and is held in a strange trance (8)
18 Leaf-destroying parasite (4)
21 Determine to become hard (3)
22 Small staff that may work wonders (5,4)
24 A lengthy yarn (5)
25 Even this dog will have his day some day perhaps (7)

DOWN

1 Stony-faced man? (5)
2 A craft for a simpleton (3)
3 Fail to skip (4)
4 Translating Proust may produce it (6)
5 He caters for people who don't follow rules (8)
6 Head teacher is a source of interest (9)
7 Meals for father in breaks from work (7)
11 It is held to improve the eyesight (9)
13 They may well be employed in checking (8)
14 Pardons and releases (7)
16 Puts in the balance (6)
19 Summed up (5)
20 What a dirty film! (4)
23 No particular part of the Christian year (3)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Camp fire, 5 Asia, 9 Banjo, 10 Thin air, 11 Postmistress, 13 Ounces, 14 Centre, 17 Miss the point, 20 Tendril, 21 Daisy, 22 Read, 23 Entrance.

Down: 1 Cube, 2 Monsoon, 3 From the start, 4 Retail, 6 Shade, 7 Arrested, 8 Little wonder, 12 Commuter, 15 Tension, 16 Merlin, 18 Sonya, 19 Hyde.

Psychiatric patients can take vaccine

No alert from vaccine companises, no contra-effect with psychiatric medications, say experts

RANJANI MADHAVAN AND IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

BOTH the Covishield and Covaxin fact sheets state that people must declare to the vaccinators if they have long-term medications or illnesses. One of the categories of patients not spoken about till now are those with psychiatric disorders, many of whom are on lifelong medication for chronic conditions such as schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder, dementia, OCD, depression and anxiety. However, experts state that these patients need not worry and can take the Covid vaccine as until now, there is no evidence of contraindications to it.

"Psychiatric medication only improves the condition of neurotransmitters. For example, with schizophrenia, they reduce the dopamine levels and with depression they increase serotonin levels. As such there is no evidence that the Covid vaccine can harm long-term psychiatric patients. These patients are, in fact, more vulnerable to Covid-19 owing to their behavioural issues," said Dr H Chandrashekar, medical adviser, Karnataka State Mental Health Authority, and Professor and HOD of Psychiatry, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute.

No clinical trials have happened to explore contraindications specifically to do with psychiatric medication | EXPRESS

The Covid vaccine mainly works in creating antibodies to boost the body's defence mechanism and is not related to the psychiatric medication. These patients must be educated, informed about the vaccine, its safety, benefits and adverse effects, Dr Chandrashekar said. He added that Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)-led anxiety in seven vaccine beneficiaries in Karnataka was not related to this.

No clinical trials have happened to explore contraindications specifically to do with psychiatric medication and no such issues have been raised by the vaccine manufacturing companies, experts said.

"Psychiatric patients are just as vulnerable as those with hypertension, diabetes and heart issues. For Covishield, as per the fact sheet, there is no explicit mention of contraindication with respect to mental health medication. Hence, patients can take it. For Coavxin, they can take a call after discussing with their physician," said Dr Shashidhar H N, psychiatrist and Resident Medical Officer, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences.

On July 11, 2020, the Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS) wrote to Dr Vinod K Paul, Member, Niti Aayog & Chairman, NEGVAC (National Expert Group On Vaccine Administration for Covid-19), for inclusion of one more High Priority Group for Vaccination – Persons with Severe Mental Illnesses (SMIs). They asked to prioritise this group for vaccination which includes persons with SMIs.

Dr T S Sathyanarayana Rao, General Secretary of IPS and Professor, Department of Psychiatry, JSS Medical College and Hospital, Mysuru, said, "People with mental problems can take the Covid vaccine and it is completely safe for them. They can continue their daily medication as well. The vaccine is crucial for them as they belong to the high risk category, wherein they have no idea about following Covid safety norms and will be prone to infection."

The letter stated that the vulnerability of Persons with Severe Mental Illnesses (SMIs) to all forms of infection, including the Covid-19 virus infection, is well established with many factors contributing to this vulnerability including the neglect of self-care, poor living conditions, compromised immune status and possibly inadequate Covid adherent behaviour.

JAB FOR THE WARRIOR

"I received the vaccination and I had mild pain in the injected site and mild malaise and body soreness, however, this is quite expected after such vaccinations. A few other health workers had similar symptoms. After the observation period, life was usual for many. I'm looking forward to the second dose which is expected in the next four to six weeks. It is important for everyone to take the vaccination. This will prevent the spread of infection. As health workers, we have responsibility towards the society. Around 140 people were inoculated. A few were left out as they were working in different shifts. We are trying to get them vaccinated as well. The process went well. It was well accepted by the staff. A few did not come forward due to apprehension."

Dr Srinivas Chirukuri, CEO, Prakriya Hospitals, Nagasandra, Bengaluru

Being a doctor, I was skeptical to take the vaccine. In my profession, before we administer any drug to the patient, it should pass through rigorous tests. It is prescribed only after it is proven safe. But here we have Covid vaccine which has skipped some steps and has been approved for public use. I have seen my near and dear ones suffer from Covid, so, I had to make a choice. I am willing to take the risk and bear the consequences as I believe in my fraternity who have worked so hard in making this vaccine. After my discussion with my doctor colleagues, I decided to take the vaccine because the benefits outweighed the risk. The injection was painless and I had mild pain at the injected site. I didn't have any other side-effects. My request to people is don't go by what others say; talk to your doctor and make a wise decision.

Dr Rani A. Bhat, Head & Senior Consultant,
Division of Gynecological Oncology Apollo Cancer Center, Bengaluru

8 wards have zero cases in 10 days

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

WHILE Bengaluru has been witnessing a drop in Covid-19 cases over the past 10 days, eight wards in the city have reported no cases at all. The eights wards are in the West and South zones, which in the earlier months of pandemic, had seen a high number of cases.

The four wards in the South zone with zero cases are Gurappana Palya (Ward 171), Banshankari Temple Ward (180), Kempapura Agrahara (Ward 122), Vijayanagar (Ward 123), while in the West zone, Binnypet (Ward 121), Jagjivan Ram Nagar (Ward 136), Prakash Nagar (Ward 98) also saw no cases. Officials attributed this to proper surveillance and blanket testing, which resulted in early identification of cases.

The Gurappana Palya ward, with a population of about 68,000 had witnessed many Covid deaths, pointed out Dr Praveen Kumar G S, Medical Officer of Tavarekere UPHC. But identifying cases at an early stages helped bring down the cases. "We carried out a huge number of testing in the PHCs, hospitals and even set up camps. This helped us in identifying Covid cases at an early stage and they were immediately isolated and treated. Our ward has zero cases since a month now and the south zone has a positivity rate of less than 0.03%, which is a great achievement." said Dr Kumar.

Medical Officer Dr Manjula of Prakash Nagar ward, said, "Surviellance helped us in tracing cases and isolating them. The BBMP staff would be on field tracking them down." Dr C K Mohan Kumar, Medical Officer from Banshankari Temple Ward UPHC pointed out that timely awareness helped bring down the cases to zero.

However, 10 wards have seen the highest number of cases in the past 10 days — Bellandur, Suddagunte Palya, Varthur, Doddanekundi, Horamavu, Jnana Bharati ward, HBR Layout, Byatarayanapura, Uttarahalli and Vasantapura.

EXPRESS READ

56% vaccination coverage in last 9 days

BENGALURU: In the last nine days, vaccination drives have been held at 4,117 sites across the state and 1,86,748 beneficiaries got vaccinated with 56 per cent overall coverage. On Sunday, 2,015 healthcare workers got vaccinated, while the target was 6,504, a coverage of 31 per cent. Vaccination sessions were held only in Bengaluru Urban, Dharwad, Ballari and Gadag districts.

Consent forms to be translated to Kannada

ENS @ Bengaluru

EXPRESS IMPACT

AFTER *The New Indian Express* published a report on how Covaxin consent forms were available only in English, Jawaid Akhtar, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, confirmed that the government is working with Bharat Biotech to get the forms translated to Kannada. The process has already begun and the Kannada forms will be sent to districts where Covaxin is being administered.

The *Express* story was titled 'Covaxin consent forms not given, say recipients' talked about how a few beneficiaries said that they did not receive the consent form and were unaware of it, others who did receive it, got it only in English and a few others were not aware which vaccine they were given.

However, the government denied this. In response to the story, the Health department sent a rebuttal claiming that only after obtaining written consent, the beneficiary is inoculated. The rebuttal further stated that they inform the beneficiary which vaccine they are being given - Covaxin or Covishield- and the date of their second dose.

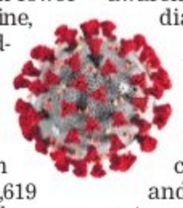
They also said that though the forms are in English, health workers were explained the form before they signed it. The department also claimed that the news is misleading and sends the wrong message to health workers.

Poor turnout for inoculation drive in BBMP outer zones

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

SINCE the launch of the vaccine, Bengaluru Urban has seen a poor turnout, with the number of beneficiaries in the outer zones of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike relatively lower than in other zones.

Mahadevapura, Yelahanka, Dasarahalli, Bommanahalli, and RR Nagar, which are the outer zones, have seen much lower turnout due to fears over the vaccine, which the government needs to address, officials say. Another factor is that the number of health workers in these zones is low due to lower population.



BBMP data shows that between January 18 and 21, only 1,805 of 3,619 targeted beneficiaries in Yelahanka zone received the jab, while in Bommanahalli, only 1,672 of 7,628 people turned up. In Dasarahalli, of the total 1,198, only 511 got the vaccine, and in Mahadevapura, 757 of the target of 4,700 turned up.

A Bommanahalli zonal officer told *The New Indian Express*, "As this phase is only for healthcare workers, it is voluntary. There has been a slow turnout, but we are expecting it to improve next week when more people realise that the vaccine is completely safe. Meanwhile, in the outer zones, the health centres are fewer than in South and East. In Bommanahalli, we have only 15 primary health centres, while South and East have 30 each." A Dasarahalli health officer said, "Many feel there will be adverse side effects and so they do not want to get vaccinated. There needs to be awareness and campaigns on social media platforms."

Mahadevapura zone, one of the biggest in the city, has a very low turnout. "Due to glitches in the Co-WIN app, many beneficiaries do not get the messages and we crosscheck from the list we have and call them. Sometimes, they are not available on the scheduled days, and choose to take it in the second round," said an officer. The portal needs to be fixed before Phases 2 and 3, which will cover a larger population, said a Bommanahalli officer.

Rajendra Cholan, BBMP Special Commissioner, Health, told *The New Indian Express* that they were in talks with universities, hospitals and district administrations to trace them and get them vaccinated.

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IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF THE CIVIL JUDGE & J M F C., AT NELAMANGALA
C.Misc.No.24/2011
PETITIONER: Sri Siddagangaiah S/o late Lakkanna Aged about 43 years, R/at Gulapura village Thyamagondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. V/S
RESPONDENT: The Thasildar Nelamangala Taluk,
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION
Whereas the petitioner above named has presented petition to this Hon'ble court under section 13(3) of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for order direct the respondent authority to get enter the date of petitioner's Grand Father by name Lakkanna S/o Narasimhaiah was died on 24.05.1995, at above said address. The Hon'ble court has fixed on 17.02.2021 for hearing of the petition & that if any person's desire to oppose the said petition or claim or interest shall appear before the Hon'ble court in person or by pleader duly instructed. Failing which the said application will be heard and determined as exparte. Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this the 18.01.2021
By order of the court, sd/-Chief Ministerial officer Court of the Civil Judge, Junior Division & JMFC, Nelamangala
Advocate for Petitioner.
Sri.Revanna, Advocate Nelamangala

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF THE CIVIL JUDGE & J M F C., AT NELAMANGALA
C.Misc.No.23/2011
PETITIONER: Sri NANDISH.J S/o late Jayanna Aged about 46 years, R/at Isuvanahalli village Thyamagondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. V/S
RESPONDENT: The Thasildar Nelamangala Taluk,
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION
Whereas the petitioner above named has presented petition to this Hon'ble court under section 13(3) of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for order direct the respondent authority to get enter the date of petitioner's Grand Mother by name Shivamma W/o Shivanna was died on 05.11.1988, at above said address. The Hon'ble court has fixed on 17.02.2021 for hearing of the petition & that if any person/s desire to oppose the said petition or claim or interest shall appear before the Hon'ble court in person or by pleader duly instructed. Failing which the said application will be heard and determined as exparte. Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this the 18.01.2021
By order of the court, sd/-Chief Ministerial officer Court of the Civil Judge, Junior Division & JMFC, Nelamangala
Advocate for Petitioner.
Sri.Revanna, Advocate Nelamangala

Advt. No. 08/2021
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
Chairman and Managing Director
in
Northern Coalfields Limited
Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is by 15.00 hours on 30th March, 2021.
For details login to website
http://www.pesb.gov.in

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India)
An ISO 9001: 2015 Institution
Manovikas Nagar, Secunderabad - 500 009, Telangana.
Tel: 091-40-27751741-745, Fax : 091-40-27750198.www.niepid.nic
Employment Notice No : 01/2021
This Institute invites applications from eligible candidates for the following Regular Post to be filled on Direct Recruitment basis at this institute.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No.of Posts	Level	Category
1	Lecturer in Physiotherapy	01	Level-10	OBC

The Last date for receipt of Completed Application forms is 22.02.2021
The detailed notification is available on institute's website: www.niepid.nic.in
Director

DEMAND NOTICE
Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act.) read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the said Rules). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the said Rules, the Authorised Officer of IIFL Home Finance Ltd.(IIFL HFL) (Formerly known as India India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s), to repay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the Borrower(s) to pay within 60 days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest from the date(s) of Demand Notice till the date of payment. The detail of the Borrower(s), amount due as on date of Demand Notice and security offered towards repayment of loan amount are as under:-

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
Mr. Anil Kumar, Mr. Manasa N (Prospect No. 702352)	19-Jan-21 Rs. 17,95,241.00/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Two Hundred Forty One Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being : Pashmina Brookwoods, Flat No B2E0901, measuring 525, Kammasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Near Budigere Cross, Bangalore
Mr. Kushal Sethi, Mrs. Swati Sharma (Prospect No. 702559)	19-Jan-21 For Rs. 17,20,001.00/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Twenty Thousand One Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being : Pashmina Brookwoods, Flat No B2D0708, measuring 525, Kammasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Near Budigere Cross, Bangalore
Mr. Anupa Kumar Patri, Mrs. Asima Panda (Prospect No. 703441)	19-Jan-21 For Rs. 22,11,361.00/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Eleven Thousand Three Hundred Sixty One Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being : Pashmina Brookwoods, Flat No B2F0301, measuring 657 sqft, Kammasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Near Budigere Cross, Bangalore
Mr. Rajat Srivastava, Mrs. Nidhi Maheshwari (Prospect No. 703505)	19-Jan-21 Rs. 13,59,074.00/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Seventy Four Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being : Pashmina Brookwoods, Flat No. B3I1006, measuring 525 sqft, Kammasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Near Budigere Cross, Bangalore

If the said Borrowers fail to make payment to IIF HFL as aforesaid, IIFL HFL may proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the said Act, and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks, costs and consequences of the Borrowers.
For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at Branch Office :IIFL HFL"ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025/or Corporate Office : IIFL Tower, Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Ph-IV Gurgaon, Haryana.
Place: Bangalore Date: 25.01.2021 Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd

POSSESSION NOTICE - (for immovable property) Rule 8-(1)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the borrowers / co-borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of IIHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.
"The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, If the borrower clears the dues of the "IIHFL" together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by "IIHFL" and no further step shall be taken by "IIHFL" for transfer or sale of the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower(s) Bangalore BRANCH	Description of secured asset (immovable property)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice
Mr. Manjunatha S and Mrs.Gowramma S (Prospect No 852025)	All that piece and parcel of Property Site No.19, Assessment No.1143, Khatha No. 1174, admeasuring 414 Sft, Situated at Huliyaru Grama panchayath and Hobli, Indiranagara Badavane, Chi.Na Halli Taluk,Tumkur, Karnataka.	Rs. 3,06,745.00/-	12-Jan-21	22-Jan-21
Mrs. Padmamma T N, Mr.Praveen T V (Prospect No 848780)	All that piece and parcel of Janjharu No. 130 Property No.147, E Khata No. 152501000600200163, totally measuring 2400 Sq. Feet, Thoremavinahalli Village, Turuvekere Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka.	Rs. 2,65,893/-	18-Mar-20	22-Jan-21

For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at Branch Office:"ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025/or Corporate Office : Plot No. 98, Phase-IV, Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana.
Place: Tumkur Dated: 25/01/2021 Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Limited

POSSESSION NOTICE - (for immovable property) Rule 8-(1)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the borrowers / co-borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of IIHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.
"The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, If the borrower clears the dues of the "IIHFL" together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by "IIHFL" and no further step shall be taken by "IIHFL" for transfer or sale of the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower(s) Bangalore BRANCH	Description of secured asset (immovable property)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice
Mr.Karthik Pandian Balasubramanian and Mrs. Pandiyarani Balasubramanian (Prospect No 728178)	All that piece and parcel of Flat No A-204 on 2nd Floor, Block A, area admeasuring 1035 sq.ft "SRI VISHNU PEARLS" on Old Survey No.42/6, New Survey No.42/4A, Electronic City Phase-2, Konappana Agrahara Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore Southtaluk, Bangalore	Rs. 32,49,002/-	08/12/20	21-Jan-21

For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at Branch Office:"ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025/or Corporate Office : Plot No. 98, Phase-IV, Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana.
Place: Bangalore Dated: 25/01/2021 Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Limited

Muthoot Finance | Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd
Corporate Office : 1201 & 1202, 12th Floor, 'A' Wing, Lotus Corporate Park, Off. Western Express Highway, Goregaon (East), Mumbai – 400 063.
DEMAND NOTICE
Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower/s (the "said Borrower"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s issued to them that are also given below.
In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower to pay to MHIL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest at 2% p.m. as detailed in the said Demand Notices, from the dates mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrowers. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to MHIL by the said Borrowers respectively.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Loan Account No./Branch	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
1	M G Sadashiva Hegde/ Shakunthala/ 053-05300413/Bangalore	Rs.917861/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty One Only)	26-12-2020	Site No. 21, Property No. 10/5, Khata No 477/443/21, Marenahalli Grama Jala Hobli Karnataka 562149
2	Sharanayya Sabgayya Ratimani/ Neelamma Sharanayya Ratimani/ 053-05300008/Bangalore	Rs.642000/- (Rupees Six Lakh Fourty Two Thousand Only)	26-12-2020	Portion Of Site No.132, Katha No.72, House List No.379/132/72, Doddathogur Gp Vittasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore Karnataka 560068
3	Subramanyam/ D Malleeswari/ 053-05300054/Bangalore	Rs.1592303/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh NinetyTwo Thousand Three Hundred Three Only)	26-12-2020	Site No.58 & 59 Katha No.294/3 Bbmp B Katha SI No.3572 Property No.294/ Begur Village Hobli Bangalore Karnataka 560037

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to MHIL as aforesaid, MHIL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences.
The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of MHIL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made thereunder, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.
Place: Bangalore
Date : 25.01.2021
Sd/-
Authorised Officer
For Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd.

When there is a vaccine for coronavirus why not for the blight disease that affects watermelon, asked Agriculture Minister B C Patil. He pulled up the research staff at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra and sought answers to farmers' questions

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Mantri's good offices!

Even as sparks are flying within the BJP over the cabinet expansion, those who have made it are naturally beaming. On Sunday, newly appointed minister for Forest & Kannada and Culture Department Arvind Limbavali inaugurated his office at the State secretariat. The pooja and the inauguration ceremony came even as a few ministers have been meeting secretly to discuss their future course of action. Limbavali received a photo of Lord Rama from his supporters and workers for his newly opened office. At least one minister is happy.

And thereby hangs a tail!

Did SDPI's massive protest in Mangaluru on Friday seeking to release its three party workers held for allegedly raising pro-Pakistan slogans, shake up the ruling BJP? Well, BJP's Dakshina Kannada spokesperson Jagadish Shenava in a press meet called to condemn the SDPI's protest maintained that the saffron party is like an 'elephant' and can't be bothered by 'barking dogs'. Even as the journalists were wondering then why the 'elephant party' took pains to call a press meet over the issue of 'barking dogs', the BJP leader was quick to add that the press meet was intended to send across a message that the saffron party was least bothered by SDPI's protest. Woof, woof!

Not all illegal mines will be regularised: CM

Says companies should meet all legal criteria, crushed stones needed for infrastructure development works

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

AFTER facing a backlash from several quarters, including opposition parties, for reportedly asking unauthorised stone miners to get themselves regularised, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Sunday said that his statement was misinterpreted. He clarified that those who are running unauthorised mines should apply for regularisation, which will be allowed only if the law permits.

The chief minister said that he has asked officials to regularise only those mines that meet all the legal criteria, and that officials will be held responsible if there is illegal mining within their jurisdiction. "All illegal miners should stop mining immediately and I have asked deputy commissioners to ensure that there is no such illegal activity. Unauthorised miners should apply for regularisation and officials should conduct spot inspections. I'm clarifying in my capacity as chief minister that officials can permit mining only if there is no negative impact. I want to make it clear that those mining illegally should stop it immediately," he said.

Admitting that illegal mining is going on in many parts of the state, he pointed out that illegal activity at Baby Betta in Pandavapura taluk of Mandya district is posing a threat to KRS Dam. "I have given instructions to stop illegal mining there, but some miners are still continuing with their operations. Illegal mining should be stopped everywhere," he said.

"But the supply of crushed stones is essential for the development of infrastructure, and there is no objection if it is done legally. When there was a shortage earlier, we brought crushed stones from Bengaluru and Mangaluru. If the same problem occurs again, there will be a burden on the exchequer and development works will be delayed," he added.

A file picture of the blast site in Shivamogga | SHIMOGA NANDAN

82% MINES IN MANDYA ARE ILLEGAL: HDK

Mysuru: Former CM H D Kumaraswamy on Sunday alleged that 82 per cent of the mines in Mandya district are illegal and criticised district in-charge minister Narayana Gowda for his silence over the issue. Clarifying that his government had not allowed illegal mining, he questioned Gowda's silence for the past fourteen months and alleged that they have raised their voice only after the Shivamogga incident to revise graft amount. "They have fixed Rs 10 lakh to give a no objection certificate. We want to know where the money is going," he asked. Kumaraswamy said it is the responsibility of the district minister to protect the natural resources and ecology. **ENS**

Unauthorised miners should apply for regularisation and officials should conduct spot inspections. I'm clarifying in my capacity as CM that officials can permit mining only if there is no negative impact

B S Yediyurappa, Chief Minister

Kin of deceased: Didn't know what kind of work they did

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Shivamogga

THEIR sole intention was to earn enough to meet the basic requirements of their families. Manjunath (35) and Praveen (36) did just that till the massive explosion at a quarrying unit at Hunasodu village in Shivamogga taluk cut their lives short on Thursday night.

Both were from Antaragange camp in Bhadravathi taluk. Of them, Manjunath had a child, a boy, just a few days ago, and was yet to name him. His brother-in-law Siddappa told *The New Indian Express*, "We did not know what kind of work he was doing. But he was managing his family. His wife Supreeta was at her mother's house in Mysuru when the incident occurred. She rushed back to Hunasodu the next day. Their daughter, Hamsa, is six years old."

He said, "Manjunath had studied till fifth standard. He and his mother Lakshmamma worked as farm labourers at fields around Bhadravathi till recently. We don't know when he moved to Shivamogga to take up this high-risk job. His neighbours too are shocked. He was a nice person."

Praveen's family was too shocked to talk about the incident. When asked, they only said, "Namagenu gottilla (We don't know anything)."

We don't know when he moved to Shivamogga to take up this high-risk job. His neighbours too are shocked. He was a nice person

Siddappa, Manjunath's brother-in-law

Three others who died in the incident -- Pavankumar (29), Javid (28) and Chelimanu Raju (24) – were from Rayadurga of Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh.

All these young labourers were sole breadwinners of their families. The government announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to each their families. But that is not enough, the families rue. "Most of us did not know the risks involved in the work they did. Now that we have lost our main earners, will the stone-crushing unit that hired them help us," they asked.

EXPRESS READ

Not fair to stage dharna, Yediyurappa will look into stalled projects, says Deve Gowda

HASSAN: JDS Supremo HD Deve Gowda said on Sunday that it isn't fair to stage a dharna in front of Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa's official residence as the latter has promised to look into stalled projects of Hassan district soon. "It would be better to raise the issues in the assembly. "I will meet the CM before the protest, if he permits, the former PM added. In a recent press conference, JDS leader HD Revanna had said that Hassan district MLAs and MPs will stage a dharna in front of the CM's official residence, under the leadership of HD Deve Gowda protesting alleged step motherly attitude towards Hassan district on Monday. **ENS**

State govt to tighten vigil at checkposts, says Ashoka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

THE truckload of explosive substances, which detonated on Thursday night at Hunasodu, were brought from Andhra Pradesh as per initial information, said Revenue Minister R Ashoka on Sunday.

However, it is unclear how the explosives-laden lorry entered Karnataka and reached Shivamogga. The police have launched an investigation in this regard.

The police said that of the six people who died, three hailed from Rayadurg in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh.

Ashoka said, "The investigation will have to reveal how such explosives are brought and who supplied them. These explosives were meant for quarrying. But what if they were used for a dangerous purpose? It would have caused a huge disaster."

Ashoka said the government will tighten vigil at checkposts. "The government will also make rules with regard to transportation and storing of explosives more effective. I will speak to the Mines and Geology Minister and the officials concerned in this regard. I will also hold a meeting of the disaster management wing of the Revenue Department to prevent such incidents in the future," he said.

When asked about how the explosives-laden lorry entered Shivamogga district, Inspector General of Police (Eastern Range) S Ravi told TNIE that investigation was on in this regard. He refused to divulge more information as the investigation was in progress.

Meanwhile, Shivamogga police issued a statement for the first time since the incident. However, the press note contained only information of the deceased.

The deceased were Pawan Kumar (29), Javeed (28) and Chelimanu Raju (24), all from Rayadurg, Praveen (36) and Manjunath (35), residents of Antaragange village in Bhadravati. The identity of one more body is yet to be established.

High fuel prices burdening people: Congress

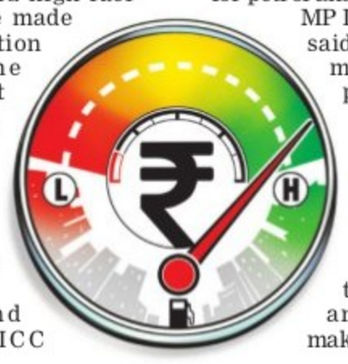
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CONGRESS leaders on Sunday slammed Union and state governments for keeping fuel prices high especially during Covid times when the common man is suffering.

Senior Congress leader and All-India Congress Committee general secretary, Maharashtra in-charge, H K Patil, told *The New Indian Express*, "It is unfortunate that the LPG prices are around Rs 780, which is almost 90 per cent higher than what it was in 2014.

This is unreasonable as the global crude prices have remained low for the last 10 months. The governments can reduce the prices and still earn enough revenue.

Why are the duties, levies and taxes on fuel so high? The government has to explain where the ₹20 lakh crore earned through these fuel levies has gone. The common people are suffering because of Covid and high fuel prices have made their condition worse. The government appears to be only favouring the rich people, and making them fatter."



MLC and former AICC general secretary B K Hari Prasad said, "Everyone knows that we are yet to recover from the effects of Covid. But the government is unnecessarily burdening the people. The Modi government seems to be racing towards the ₹100 mark for petrol and diesel."

MP Dr Nasir Hussain said, "This government only mouths pro-poor slogans, but makes policies to favour the rich. They could have reduced the prices of fuel to help farmers across the country, who are struggling to make ends meet. The Prime Minister went to town about the LPG subsidy when it was launched. But now it is clear that it was mere sloganeering and a publicity stunt. In the last six years, the prices have jumped from Rs 440 to Rs 780. The days of welfare government seem to be over, as this government supports only crony capitalists."

This government only mouths pro-poor slogans, but makes policies to favour the rich. They could have reduced the prices of fuel to help farmers across the country, who are struggling to make ends meet

Dr Nasir Hussain, MP

GIRL SUPREME

Children and women celebrate the National Girl Child Day in front of Vidhana Soudha, in Bengaluru on Sunday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

Centre to pitch in with ₹40cr for Plastic Park in Mangaluru

ENS @ Bengaluru

TWO days after he announced that the Union Government had cleared the setting up of a plastic park in Mangaluru, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers, D V Sadananda Gowda, urged the state to submit a detailed project report at the earliest.

Pointing out that the Centre will fund 50 per cent of the project cost, with Rs 40 crore to be released in four instalments, Gowda said he has written to the State Government to get final clearances within six months for the project so the scheme can be implemented without delay.

"The plastic park will be an ecosystem enabling common facilities — like characterisation, prototyping and virtualization, non-destructive material testing, incubation, training, warehousing, plastic recycling, tooling design, research & development, etc — to assist the plastics sector move up the value chain and contribute to the economy more effectively. The Union Government will fund 50 per cent of the project cost, up to Rs 40 crore. The rest can be funded by the State Government via its existing entities like Karnataka State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) or through a new special purpose vehicle," Sadananda Gowda said.

According to the Union government's scheme guidelines, the equity contribution of the State Government shall be at least 26 per cent of the cash equity of the SPV (excluding value of any land given as equity).

UNIQUE PROTEST

More than 20,000 farmers gear up for Republic Day tractor rally

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FARMERS associations across the state, including the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS), have planned to hold a massive tractor rally in Bengaluru on Tuesday. More than 20,000 farmers will take part in the rally in solidarity with their counterparts protesting against the farm laws in New Delhi, said farmer leader Kodihalli Chandrashekar. Traffic is likely to be affected in the central business district on that day.

Speaking to media on Sunday, Chandrashekar said that about 10,000 tractors from across the state will descend on Bengaluru roads on Republic Day. "We will reach Freedom Park and we hoist the national flag to show our unity," he said.

In an attempt to convey that their tractor rally is not aimed at disrupting Republic Day celebrations, Kodihalli Chandrashekhar said the protest will begin only after the official celebrations are completed.

"After Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa hoists the Tricolour, we will begin the rally with tractors, buses, cars and other vehicles waving the National Flag. On this Republic Day, farmers, labourers, Dalits, women will come together to against the three farm laws introduced by the Union Government, the Karnataka government's amendments to land reform laws, APMC Act, labour laws and the anti-cattle slaughter ordinance. All of them are anti-farmer, anti-poor and anti-people," he said.

Kurubur Shantakumar, state president of the Sugarcane Growers' Association said the tractors will arrive from all districts and reach Freedom Park through the main roads of the city via Mysuru Road, Yeshwanthpur, Ballari Road and Malleswaram. "We will also hoist the National Flag at Freedon Park. If the police try to stop the rally, it means they are against the nation and the National Flag," he remarked.

Meanwhile, a senior police officer said that the farmers have not taken permission for the rally in and around the city. "We will not allow the tractors inside city as it will lead to traffic jams on busy roads. We stop the tractors at the toll plazas itself," he said.

Police and security personnel and dog squads participate in the full dress rehearsal for Republic Day celebrations at Manekshaw Parade Grounds, in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

After CM B S Yediyurappa hoists the Tricolour, we will begin the rally with tractors, buses, cars and other vehicles waving the National flag

Kodihalli Chandrashekhar, farmer leader

We will also hoist the National Flag at Freedon Park. If the police try to stop the rally, it means they are against the nation and the National Flag

Kurubur Shantakumar, state president, Sugarcane Growers' Association

TS schools to open on Feb 1 After a gap of nearly one year, schools for Class 9 and 10 students in Telangana are set to reopen from February 1 and shall function till May 26

BAIT AND SWITCH

A forest official fixes a trap placed to catch the elusive leopard, which was sighted early on Saturday morning near Prestige Song apartments at Yellenahalli in N Begur, Bengaluru. The forest officials placed a cage with a bait on Sunday after fresh pug marks were seen | MEGHANA SASTRY

Vax recipient dies 5 days after jab

Kin of 45-year-old Anganwadi worker file case claiming she died of vaccine shot

U MAHESH @ Warangal

A 45-year-old Anganwadi worker from Warangal city died during the early hours of Sunday. Her family members have alleged that she died due to Covid-19 vaccination. The family filed a complaint with the police and a case has been registered.

G Vanitha, a resident of Deen Dayal colony in the city, used to work at the Anganwadi located in Shayampet area. On January 19 at 12pm she had received Covid-19 vaccine at the New Shayampet Urban Primary Health Center(UPHC).

The office of the Director of Department of Public Health and Family Welfare release a press release later in the day, which said, "The district AEFI (Adverse event following immunization) committee is examining the matter and will submit its report to the state AEFI committee. The state AEFI committee will in turn furnish its report to the central AEFI committee for taking a view".

Vanitha, a widow, used to live with her two children. On Saturday night, she complained to her family members of pain in the chest and discomfort. Thinking that she is just suffering from acidity, she took some medication and slept. However, on Sunday morning her children found her dead.

Vanitha's family members and colleagues who came to her house after knowing about the tragic development concluded that she must have died due to the vaccination. Vanitha was known to be suffering from high Blood Pressure and diabetes. Following this, a police complaint was registered with the Subedari police station. The police registered a case and is looking into the matter.

Speaking to *Express*, Warangal Urban, District Collector, Rajeevgandhi Hanumanthu said that he spoke with the MGM Government Hospital in the city and instructed the authorities there to conduct postmortem and also spoke with the police officials regarding the matter.

Hanumanthu said that until the posrtmortem report is out, it cannot be confirmed if Vanitha died as an effect of the Covid-19 vaccination.

Dr Sharan B Singh, prinicipal of Sri Padmavati Medical College for Women at SVIMS, takes a Covid vaccine shot in Tirupati on Sunday

The district Adverse Event Following Immunization Committee is examining the matter and will submit its report to the state AEFI committee

Dept of Public Health and Family Welfare

All the radiographic and laboratory tests were done on her after she suffered the brain stem stroke. The tests showed that her death is not related to Covid vaccine

Dr Neelam Prabhavati, GGH superintendent

Post vaccination, ASHA worker dies of brain stroke

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Guntur

AN accredited social health activist (ASHA) died suffering a brain stroke at AEFI center in GGH, here on Sunday. Bokka Vijayalakshmi received vaccine shot on 20th of this month at Tadepalli primary health center.

According to her family members, she fainted and went into unconscious state on Thursday night, a day after receiving the shot. She was immediately shifted to GGH.

All the radiographic and laboratory tests were done and the brain stem stroke, she is suffering with is not related to Covid-19 vaccine, said GGH Superintendent Dr Neelam Prabhavati. However, the family members of the deceased accused that Vijaya Lakshmi died due to the vaccine and the management is trying to cover it up. They are also questioning that, how can a person with no health issue, not even a head ache can suddenly suffer a brain stroke and die. They started protests demanding an exgratia of Rs.50 lakhs, a government job for the son of deceased and a house site.

The Collector assured them that he will send the proposal to the government briefing their demands. CITU State Secretary K.Dhana Lakshmi requested the government officials to inspect the health condition of every worker before giving them vaccine shot and also accused that some officials are even threatening the workers that, whoever refuses to get vaccinated will not receive their monthly salaries, she added.

Wife accuses MUDA chief of dowry harassment, attempt to kill her

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

MANGALURU Urban Development Authority (MUDA) Commissioner G T Dinesh Kumar has been accused of trying to kill his wife by lacing a fruit juice with poison, besides allegedly harassing her for dowry. The police have registered a case against him based on his wife's complaint.

The police said although Kumar is untraceable and his phone switched off after the alleged incident took place on Friday night, efforts are now on to trace him and question him about the incident.

Kumar's wife Deepti K P has filed a complaint with the Rajarajeshwari Nagar police, alleging the attempt on her life by her husband, following which the police have registered a FIR. She has also alleged that Kumar and his elder brother's wife Ramya often assaulted her over dowry.

In her complaint, Deepti has alleged that on Friday night (January 22), finding her alone at their house in Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Kumar had cajoled her into drinking fruit juice. Before she consumed it, she had asked him why he was offering her juice all of a sudden. He allegedly had replied it was because she often complained of fatigue and that the juice would refresh her.

After she had consumed the juice, Kumar had left the place. And about half-an-hour later she reportedly lost consciousness.

In her complaint, Deepti said she regained consciousness a little later and immediately called her parents who live in Chitradurga. The parents rushed to her RR Nagar home and took her to a private hospital for treatment. The doctors at the hospital, after treating her, sent a memo to the RR Nagar police about the incident, following which the police took Deepti's complaint. The couple got married in 2015 in Mysuru and have two daughters.

Several attempts to contact Kumar over the phone proved futile as his phone continued to remain switched off.

A senior police official who is part of the investigations, confirmed to *The New Indian Express*: "We received a memo from the hospital and then called Deepti to take her statement. She has given a written complaint and an FIR has been registered based on the complaint. We also gathered evidence from the house and samples of the poison which Deepti was (allegedly) forced to drink. We have also collected the CCTV footage as part of the investigations. On Saturday, we tried contacting Dinesh Kumar over the phone to ask him to appear before the investigating officer, but his phone was switched off. Efforts are now on to nab him. We will take action according to the Supreme Court guidelines."

Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Sanjeev Patil said: "The investigating officer is gathering evidence, based on which necessary action will be taken."

'First time I'm making a pitch from the scratch'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I was surprised when I got the call. I have done few age-group tournaments and have assisted other curators for IPL. But this is the first time I'm making a pitch from scratch. I didn't expect it alone this soon" Ramesh said. After getting the outfield ready, Ramesh's eyes are now on the square, which has four pitches. "It is a challenging task because we are hosting back-to-back Tests with three days gap. It is unprecedented in India. It is hectic because preparations for both the pitches are happening simultaneously for the past one week."

Chepauk pitch has traditionally assisted spinners. Ramesh expects this to be the same, but he throws in a googly. "A Chepauk pitch with an English look is being made. I always believe there should be an equal contest between bat and ball. Pacers, spinners and batsmen should have something on the pitch and that is what cricket is all about. There will be grass cover because it needs to last five days."

Teams will also get similar sort of pitches at the MAC 'B' ground where the nets are. "If the pitch is green, so should the practice turfs. It will be a sportive pitch," said Ramesh, who trains 80 and supports the education of 25 kids, at his academy Tiruppur School of Cricket.

EXPRESS READ

Trio apologises to student after stabbing him

Guntur: In a suspected case of mistaken identity, three youths stabbed a student, who stopped his car on the inner ring road in the city. The trio later realised their mistake while fleeing the spot and not just apologised to the victim, but also gave him ₹1,000 towards his medical treatment. Though the incident took place a few days ago, it came to light after the police nabbed the accused on Sunday. The police registered a case and started investigation.

Stalin's 'Vel avatar' is to hoodwink voters: EPS

Coimbatore: DMK president MK Stalin has taken a new avatar to hoodwink voters, said Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, particularly referring to an event where the former accepted a Vel (spear associated with Lord Murugan) presented by party members in Tiruvallur on Saturday. Palaniswami said Stalin had in the past abused Hindu gods, wiped Kungumam (saffron) off his forehead and 'threw away' Vibuthi (holy ash) in public, but now he is holding a Vel in his hand.

Sasikala is stable, says hospital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

V K Sasikala, the jailed former close aide of late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa, who is undergoing treatment for Covid-19, is stable, according to the hospital authorities.

As per the medical bulletin released by Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) at 4 pm on Sunday, the 66-year-old Sasikala is being continuously monitored in the ICU ward for Covid-19 symptoms. The bulletin stated that the symptoms have reduced. She is conscious, alert and well-oriented.

Her pulse, BP and respiratory rate is normal. However, she is receiving oxygen and insulin. She is walking with support, it added.

Her sister-in-law J Ilavarasi, who is also serving a prison term in a corruption case, has also tested positive for coronavirus and has been admitted to Victoria Hospital. She is asymptomatic and stable and is without oxygen support, hospital sources said.

Sasikala is likely to be released from the Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara in Bengaluru on January 27 after serving four years of sentence.

FDA question paper leak: 8 more arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

CCB officials, investigating the First Division Assistant exam question paper leak racket, on Sunday arrested eight more people in connection with the case. With this, the number of arrested in the racket has gone up to 14.

The examination for the post of FDA, organised by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), was cancelled on Saturday after six people were arrested for leaking and selling the question paper to select candidates, who had paid money in advance. The police suspect that a few KPSC officers too are involved in the racket, and one of the officials had demanded ₹10 lakh bribe for each paper, a police officer said.

A senior police officer said that the prime accused in the racket, Chandru, is an inspector with the commercial tax vigilance squad. "He had planned to sell the question papers through his associate Rachappa, who is from Belagavi. The investigation revealed that Chandru got hold of the question paper two days ago. He had prepared hand-written answer scripts, which he was planning to deliver to some of the aspirants. We are analysing the call record details of the arrested to ascertain their network and track their clients," he added.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Chandru and his associates did not share the question paper or answer scripts on social media sites or other platforms to avoid leaving digital footprints. The CCB team is yet to trace the source of the leak.

Chandru and three of his associates were arrested in Ullal on Saturday, when Yuvaraj, one of their associates, was waiting with the question papers and answer scripts.

GUILTY WILL BE SACKED: CM

Shivamogga: Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Sunday said that those who leaked the question paper of First Division Assistant (FDA) examination will be dismissed from service if found guilty. Yediyurappa said here on Sunday that he spoke to officials concerned on Saturday night and asked them to conduct a thorough investigation. "Leaking question papers is an unpardonable offence," he added. The FDA exam, which was scheduled for Sunday, was cancelled after six people were arrested for leaking the question paper on Saturday. 'All I want is peaceful protest' Reacting to a protest planned by farmers across the state on the Republic Day demanding withdrawal of farm ordinances, Yediyurappa said he has no objection to the protest. "All I want is a peaceful protest. The BJP government is pro-farmer and there is no need for any misunderstanding," he added.

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LOST OF DOCUMENT

It is informed to the public that my client **Smt. B. SUNITHA MARY**, W/o Edwin. A, D/o. Sri.C. Baleppe, Aged about 38 years, residing at No.1, 1st cross, church street, HLK No.363/1, Byrathi, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore- 560 077, has lost the Original sale Deed dated 06/06/2002, bearing its Registered Document No. No. BNG(U) KRP 3238/2002-03, Book-I, registered in the office of Sub-Registrar K.R.Puram, w.r.t property bearing Site No.1, House List Katha No.363/1, Property No.98/1 Byrathi, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, now comes under BBMP Limits, while shifting her residence from Mariyanapalya, Bangalore to Byrathi, Bangalore. The finders of the above documents are requested to return the same to my below mentioned address within 15 days.

Sri. R. HARSHA, Advocate
Office At. #665/3, I Main,
K.Narayanapura, Dr. SRK Nagar Post,
Bangalore -560 077 Ph-9513377337

LOST OF DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby notified that our clients **Mr. M. DEVADAN** S/o Mr. Muniyappa & **Mrs. C. PRIYA** W/o Mr. M. Devadan, have lost original Sale Deed Dated 25.05.2012, bearing document No. BDH-1-01087/2012-13, Stored in CD No. BDHD85, Registered at the office of the Sub-Registrar Bidarahalli, Bangalore pertaining to Site No.21, Property No.201/1 and 201/2, Assessment/ Katha No.1200, Situated at Bidarahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, comes under Bidarahalli Village Panchayat limits, Measuring **East to West** 30 Feet and **North to South** 40 Feet, in all Measuring 1200 Square Feet, In this regard, a police complaint dated 23.01.2021 was lodged with Bangalore City Police in lost report bearing No. 013609/2021. If any person/s finds the said document kindly inform the advocate stated herein. If any person/s misuses the said document, the same is not binding on our client and they shall do so at their own risk.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocate & Legal Consultant
No.235(Old No.13), 9th Main, 4th Block, Near SLV Uniworth Classic Apts, Maruthi Badavane, Hennur Cross, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bangalore-560 043
Contact-9845846428, 080-48658774, 9108784843

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **HEMA KAPATIA,** W/o. Amit Kapatia, R/at. Flat No.212, Block 2B, Mahaveer Willow Kengeri Satalight Town Bangalore, Karnataka India-560060. Have changed my name from **HEMA RANI** to **HEMA KAPATIA,** vide affidavit dated 22.01.2021 sworn to before notary Ravi, Bangalore-560040.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the property mentioned in the schedule hereunder from **Sri Bhaskar Chikkananjundappa, S/o late M. Chikkananjundappa** after Sri Bhaskar obtains release/surrender of life interest by his mother **Smt. S. Girija, W/o late M. Chikkananjundappa,** conferred under the registered Will, dated 27/03/2008, bearing Document No. INR-3-00020-2007-08, executed by M. Chikkananjundappa.

Any one having any manner of objection for the sale of the Schedule property in my client's favour shall address the same to the undersigned within 10 days from this day along with documents in support of such objections, failing which my client shall deem there are no objections for his purchasing the schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing No. 225, BBMP PID No. 72-8-225, 5th Cross, Domlur Layout, Bangaluru -560 071, and bounded as follows:

East by : Property No.262; **West by :** Road; **North by:** Property No. 224; **South by:** Property No. 226

Sd/- Suresh Kumar, Advocate,
1012/3, 1st 'A' Cross, BEML Main Road, New Thippasandra, Bangaluru-560075,
Mobile: 9341231835
Bengaluru, Date:24/01/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that our client **V.SARAVANAN** S/o Mr.Velu Mudaliar, Residing at No.12, 10th Cross, Brindavan Layout, Channasandra Horamavu, Bangalore-560043 is intending to purchase the "Schedule Property" mentioned hereunder from **M.DEVADAN** S/o Mr.Muniyappa and **Mrs.C.PRIYA** W/o Both are residing at House No.409, 3rd Main Road, OMBR Badavane, Bhuvanagiri Bangalore 560043. Any Person/s, Banks, Financial Institution., etc. objecting for the proposed sale or having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the "Schedule property" are hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice with the advocate mentioned herein failing which our clients shall proceed and complete the Sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property Bearing Site No.94, Property No.201/1 and 201/2, Assessment/ Katha No.1200, Situated at Bidarahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, comes under Bidarahalli Village Panchayat limits, Measuring East to West 30 Feet & North to South 40 Feet in all Measuring 1200 Square Feet, together with all rights, appurtenances in whatsoever manner whether underneath or above the surface & bounded on the:- **East by** : Site No.95 **West by** : Road **North by** : Site No.93 **South by** : Road

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocate & Legal Consultant
No.235(Old No.13), 9th Main, 4th Block, Near SLV Uniworth Classic Apts, Maruthi Badavane, Hennur Cross, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bangalore-560 043
Contact-9845846428, 080-48658774, 9108784843

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients have negotiated to purchase the property morefully described in the Schedule written hereunder from its owners M/s. Paprika Wear, represented by its Partners 1. Surendra Agarwal, 2. Abhishek Agarwal and 3. Suman Agarwal.

Any person/s having any right, title, interest, lien, charge or claim whatsoever in or over the Schedule Property or to any portion thereof, may submit their objection/s, claim/s, in writing to the undersigned, through Registered Post acknowledgement due, along with the supporting documentary evidence, within **7 days** of the issuance of this notice, failing which my client will proceed on the basis that there are no claims whatsoever over the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.8, old No.125, situated at 5th Cross, New Kalasipalyam Extension, Bengaluru, having PID No. 48-91-8, New K.S.Palyam, 5th Cross, Ward No.48, Sudhamanagar Ward, Bengaluru, in all measuring 7825 sqft and bounded as follow:

BOUNDARIES:

East by : Site No.125,
West by : Site No.124,
North by : Government Road and
South by : Site No.135

The above property consists of a commercial building with Ground, First, Second and Terrace Floor.

(S. SRINIVASA MURTHY), Advocate
No.1404, (Old No.90), 23rd Cross,
3rd Block East, Jayanagar,
Bengaluru-560-011. 080-26635944
Place: Bengaluru Date: 23.01.2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public and all the States and Central Government authorities including all Financial institutions and Banks, are hereby informed that my clients **Mr. Waseem & Parveez Ahmed, Sons of Rafiq Ahmed,** is intending to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner **Mr. ABDUL SHUKOOR, Son of Abdul Jabbar,** late, residing at No.105 (Old No. 194), Nehrupuram, Civil Station, Bengaluru -560 001. If anybody has got any sort of right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule property or any part thereof in any manner whatsoever are called upon to file their objections / claims whatsoever along with documentary proof **within Seven days** from the date of publication of this notice with the undersigned failing which, my client will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property from the above named vendor namely **Mr. Abdul Shukoor** treating that there are no claims over the Schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being the site with residential house, bearing Municipal No. New 105, (Old No.195), at Nehrupuram, Civil Station, Bharathi Nagar, Bangalore in Division No.76 of Corporation of city of Bangalore, Ward No.80, within the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bengaluru, Measuring East by 23 feet, West by 22 feet, North by 23 feet, South by 23 feet **Bounded on the :**

East by - Nehrupuram Street,
West by - Nehrupuram Street,
North by - Private Property,
South by - Private Property

Sd/- Raziya Sultana, Advocate,
Chamber No.6, 1st Floor, No.120, M.M Complex, Chik Bazaar Road, Tasker Town, Bengaluru-560 051.
Contact No. 9591509155, 9686031831

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Shilpa Gulecha,** W/o. Sripal Suresh Jain, R/at. No.58, 4th floor 1st Main Road, Near Bata Show Room Chamarajpet Bengluru-18. have changed my name from **SHILPA UTTAM CHAND GULLECHA** vide affidavit dated 18.01.2021 sworn before notary Prakash.C, Bengaluru-79.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client has agreed to purchase Commercial cum Residential Property bearing No.18, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Khatha No.670/1325/1282/18, (earlier Site No.18, Previous Khatha No.16, old BBMP Khatha No.474 and Site No.18), situated at Omkar nagar, Arekere, Bengaluru-560 076, Coming under BBMP Arekere Ward No.193, as described below in the schedule, from Sri. G. PRABHAKARA SHETTY, S/o. Late. Krishnappa Shetty, Residing at Door No.18, "Praveen complex" 2nd Floor, Omkar Nagar, Arekere Gate, Bannerghatta Road Cross, Bengaluru-560 076. Any person who has any valid claim, title, demand or interest over the said property or any objections to the purchase of the said property, by my client may file his/her objections in writing, along with copies of the supporting documents, with the undersigned within **TEN DAYS** from this day. Failing which, it will be deemed that no other person/s has any claim, demand, interest or title in the said property, by way of previous agreement to sell or sale or otherwise or objections to the purchase of the said property by my client and my client will complete the sale, as if there is no such claim/s.

SCHEDULE-PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **Commercial and Residential Property** bearing Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Khatha No.670/1325/1282/18, (old Site No.18, Previous Khatha No.16, old BBMP Khatha No.474), situated at **Omkar nagar, Arekere, Bengaluru-560 076,** Coming under BBMP Arekere Ward No.193, Consists of Land, measuring **East to West 60 feet** and **North to South** towards eastern **side 45 feet** and towards western **side 35 feet**, totally measuring 2400 square feet, and RCC roofed Ground Floor commercial building and First floor commercial building and Second floor Residential building, with Mosaic flooring and Iron Shutters and jungle wood doors & windows thereon, each floor approximately measuring **1400 Sq. ft,** with civic amenities such as electricity, water and sewerage connections, bounded on :

East by : Site No.1,
West by : **Road,**
North by : **Road** and
South by : Site No.17.

S.C.THILOKCHAND,
DHIRAJ KUMAR JAIN, Advocates,
Sakalajee Market, Avenue Road,
Bengaluru - 560 002. Phone-2221 0751
Mob-98452 55592.
Place: Bengaluru. Date: 25-01-2021

EDITORIAL

"Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future" — John F Kennedy

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.
— Ramnath Goenka

SCRAMBLE BEGINS TO APPROPRIATE NETAJI'S LEGACY AHEAD OF POLLS

As the nation observed the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on Saturday, there were competing claims to the rich legacy of one of Bengal's tallest icons. With the state elections just around the corner, netas tried to pull out all the stops to appropriate the freedom fighter for their narrow ends. For starters, competing political jockeying ensured that there was no consensus even on the title of the day's event. If the BJP unilaterally called it Parakram Diwas (day of valour), the Trinamool Congress named the day after Rabindranath Tagore's eulogy of Netaji as a Desh Nayak (national hero). While PM Narendra Modi said his government was walking in the footsteps of Netaji to realise his dream of a secure and self-reliant India, leading a long foot march was CM Mamata Banerjee's way of commemorating the anniversary. When Modi and Mamata shared the dais during the day's main celebrations organised by the Centre on the forecourt of the Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata, the latter's unease was clearly visible. And her heckling by a section of the audience with Jai Shri Ram slogans when her turn came to speak was an affront. Mamata called out the insult and opted not to deliver her address.

The BJP made its first big attempt to stake its claim to his legacy during Modi 1.0 by declassifying loads of documents on his mysterious past. The party's appetite for appropriating national icons is voracious. From Congress luminaries like Sardar Patel and Gandhiji to reformists like BR Ambedkar and revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh and Veer Savarkar, the BJP has sought out at least one in each state who personifies its definition of robust nationalism to increase its popular acceptability. With the Congress entirely missing in action, only time can tell which way Netaji's goodwill could swing.

Finally, what does one make of Mamata's proposal to develop four national capitals—one each in the East, West, North and South—and four parliaments functioning in rotation instead of one? It's typically Tughlaqian. Andhra Pradesh CM Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy's decision last year to have three state capitals instead of just Amaravati made much more economic and political sense than Didi's idea.

ENRICHING THE HERITAGE OF ODISHA

The Naveen Patnaik government has unveiled a massive plan to beautify the Sun Temple at Konark, one of the architectural marvels of the world. A 3.5 km ring road around the 13th century monument landscaping over 30 acres, an entry plaza and a multi-modal hub find place in the draft architectural plan the CM released last week. Reviving the open-air theatre and redeveloping all roads connecting Konark are part of the scheme to elevate the lure of the Black Pagoda. These plans have come as part of its grand vision to transform some of the iconic religious-cultural heritage sites and put Odisha on the international map. Having rolled out the ₹3,208 crore Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme that seeks to change the face of Puri and areas surrounding Sri Jagannath Temple, and following it up with the Ekamra Kshetra Project for the Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar, the state has trained its focus on some of its prominent religious-cultural complexes. The opposition sees political motive in the breakneck speed at which the BJD government is unveiling such projects but they will only enrich Odisha when they materialise.

The Sun Temple has been one of the everlasting cultural heritage icons of the eastern state. Yet, it did not attract much attention in terms of infrastructure that it so deserved over the years despite being the sole UNESCO World Heritage Site in Odisha. It has long been part of the famed golden triangle along with Bhubaneswar and Puri but remained bereft of decent tourist infrastructure and amenities. Ironic as it may appear, the Sun Temple is one of the most visited Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)-protected sites in India and a top revenue grosser from domestic tourism. In 2018-19, a little over 24.61 lakh domestic tourists visited the site but the concern was the drop in numbers as compared to 2017-18. Under such circumstances, the new plans may have come in the nick of time. With CM Naveen Patnaik pitching for an international airport at Puri, this could be as good a time as any for some of the unparalleled cultural treasures of Odisha.

Nutritional levels amongst children in India have worsened over the last five years. The school dropout rates at the higher levels have also increased alarmingly

THE URGENT NEED TO FOCUS ON THE NATION'S CHILDREN

AMIT BANDRE

KAPIL SIBAL
Senior lawyer, Congress leader and member of Rajya Sabha

Quality human resources are central to a country's progress and our children are that resource. Quality education and creating an ecosystem for them to acquire skills is fundamental to our republic's future. But it is only a healthy child, not stunted but well nourished, who can seize the opportunities to reap the benefits of quality education and acquire skills for personal and societal advancement. Absent this, our republic, though imbued with a sense of hope, will falter in realising her aspirations. All efforts at nation-building will fall short unless future generations are physically and mentally equipped to show their worth in a globally competitive environment.

Article 39(f) of our Constitution enjoins the state to ensure that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner, in conditions of freedom and dignity. In the 72 years of our republic we have miserably failed on that front. This has jeopardised our nation's onward march.

363 million children in our country are between 0-14 years of age (World Bank, 2019). India ranks 113th of the 176 countries on an index that evaluates countries on the well-being of children. This evaluation is done on the basis of indicators like child mortality, malnutrition, stunted growth and lack of education, amongst others (Save the Children-NGO Report, 2019). As of 2018, 38.4% of our children under five were stunted (China-6%); 20% between 8-16 were out of school (China-7.6%) and 11.7% were engaged in child labour, the highest in terms of numbers globally (Global Childhood Report, 2019). Of the 159 million children aged below six, 21% are undernourished, 36% are underweight and 38% do not receive full immunisation (State of Young Child in India Report, September 2020).

Clearly, we have failed our children. How then can India aspire to be a global leader? How can it be the change agent with more than one third of our children abnormally skinny and abnormally short? How do we compete in the future economy when 40% of our workforce has faced a stunted childhood?

Nutritional levels amongst children in India have worsened over the last five years. While we made substantial progress in lowering the share of stunted children by nearly 10% between 2005-06 and 2015-16, the proportion of child stunting, child wasting, underweight children and infant mortality has either been stagnant or worsened compared to 2015-16 (NFHS 2019-20). Covid-19 is bound to adversely impact them. The reasons for this include fall in personal incomes, food availability and healthcare provisioning. Amongst South Asian countries, child wasting is highest in India, followed by the second highest number of stunted children (World Bank, 2019). Of 107 countries, India ranks 94th in the Global Hunger Index (2020), while in terms of quality and access to healthcare it is 145th among 195 countries (Lancet).

Given these facts, our Budgets on healthcare have been modest, with allocations not enough to meet our national health policy's commitment to raise healthcare expenditure to 2.5% of GDP. Our current healthcare expenditure is around 1.15% of GDP, which is much less than the world average of 6%.

In this process, we have also built an unjust society where some exploit the full potential of opportunities while others neither have the capacity nor the wherewithal to realise their potential. 250 million of our children enrolled in 1.5 million schools represent the largest school education system anywhere in the world. Yet as children move up the ladder from primary to upper primary, secondary and senior secondary levels, the drop-out rate is alarming. This results in fewer children moving up to university level.

> Clearly, we have failed our children. How then can India aspire to be a global leader? How do we compete in the future economy on the world forum when 40% of our workforce has faced a stunted childhood?

States like Assam, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh have witnessed a significant rise in the number of students discontinuing school in class 9-10. Even in Delhi, the drop-out rate has increased significantly from 10% in 2016-17 to 17.5% in 2017-18. The largest drop-out rate at primary and higher secondary level is among children belonging to the Scheduled Tribes and Muslim Minorities along with differently-abled students, with an alarming decline in female students within each of these groups. Declining numbers of these groups in higher education is of even greater concern.

The other worrisome aspect is that around 50% of our children lack basic reading and numeracy skills even after five years of formal schooling. Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2018, which analysed levels of literacy among students, found that students of Class 5 were unable to comprehend texts prescribed for Class 2 (ASER Report, 2018). Their performance in mathematics was equally dismal. The lack of reading skills and the inability to deal with simple arithmetic problems is direct evidence of the lack of quality education. This is attributable to levels of poverty, accessibility, absence and paucity of teachers, poor teaching quality and a range of other factors.

As we wax eloquent about the digital economy, we should also take a serious look at the extent of access to digital infrastructure both in government and private schools. Only 35% of government schools had access to functional computers (Uniform District Information System for Education). The overall percentage of schools with functional computers was down to 37% in 2016-17 from 42% in 2012-13. While schools may have been established, the government perhaps was not able to equip them with digital facilities. The National Sample Survey Report (2017-18) suggests that only 24% of Indian households have internet facilities. Given the fact that 66% of our population lives in villages, just 15% of rural households have access to internet services while for urban households, the proportion is 42%. This clearly reflects the urban-rural divide. If 37% of households in India have one dwelling room, it may not be possible for children to attend digital classes undisturbed.

This is the state of children, who are the foundation of our republic. While we seek a permanent seat in the Security Council, we have miserably failed to secure seats for our children in quality schools and provide essential healthcare and nutrition to empower our republic.

Though politics moves at a galloping pace to secure power for the riders, a lot of our children are left behind insecure and beleaguered. Had we invested in them, India would instead have galloped ahead.

(Tweets @KapilSibal)

OUR BUDGET REFLECTS CHANGING ASPIRATIONS OF SOCIETY

KARAN BHASIN
New Delhi-based economist and policy researcher

SOMYA LUTHRA
New Delhi-based legal scholar

The general Budget exercise in India has been viewed with much enthusiasm by all sections of society. This is in contrast with similar such exercises in different parts of the world where it is often viewed as an annual statement of accounts for the government. While India's Budget is that too, it is also an important policy document considered to reflect the aspirations of society. People look at the Budget with much enthusiasm as it determines the allocation of money to various sectors, numerous social policy programmes and taxation changes.

In many ways, the Budget is a reflection of the development trajectory of India—and it changes and develops as India progresses. A good example of this would be the early Budgets that focussed on allocating capital and central planning. The then belief was in Rostow's stages of growth and that the state must allocate capital to ensure growth take-off in future. That we did meet those pre-conditions, yet growth did not follow, is a separate story. As is often the case, theories are proven, disproven and re-proven. If the objective in the 1940s was to ensure food security and inflation controls, it shifted to encouraging savings, restraining consumption and increasing taxes in the 1950s. In the 1960s, the priority shifted to boosting domestic production and in the 1970s we started to focus on poverty alleviation and reducing inequality.

The modern economy is an outcome of the shift in policy priorities from the 1980s, when we started looking at taxation reforms and encouraging investment. Several small ones were initiated in the 1980s along with a high fiscal deficit that resulted in a modest increase in growth. However, this was not sustained and we ended up in the balance of payments crisis of 1991. The 1990s show wide-ranging economic reforms in trade policy, liberalisation of FDI policy, reduction in income and corporate taxes—some of which happened between 1998 and 2004. Between 2004 and 2014, the focus was on reducing poverty and employment generation as India went back to redistribution.

Priorities shifted to address immediate challenges that India faced in each decade since Independence. It is against this backdrop that we must look at the previous seven Budgets. The key challenge that India faced in 2014 was of slowing growth and weak macro-fundamentals, along with concerns regarding our ability to sustain a high growth rate. The reforms of the 1990s had lost their steam and India needed reforms to enable it to get back on the high growth path.

It is important to also remember that India's economy had done considerably well till 2018 and that the post 2018 deceleration was an outcome of the tightening credit creations that were an outcome of the IL&FS collapse. Therefore, to a great extent, the economic conditions did improve even when one considers the two successive droughts in 2014 and 2015 along with the NPA problems in the banking sector. These challenges have since then been adequately addressed as India has managed to contain the contraction to its economy well under 10%, despite one of the most stringent lockdowns in response to Covid.

> Budgets represent a continuity of ideas, policies and policy priorities. As India prospers, some of these will change, but the central theme of using them as a vehicle for social transformation and public welfare will remain constant

While the post-Covid challenges would be somewhat different, the sense of optimism and positive commentary on India is reassuring with regards to its potential to regain its high growth path. The key thing, however, that is worth recognising is that the Budgets since 2014 have had a sense of policy continuity that is important from the perspective of attracting investors.

The approach since then has focused on two issues. First, reforms that enhance productivity, accelerate growth and create a conducive environment for investments to come in. Second, redistribution and ensuring proper provisioning of public goods. The latter became important as the government recognised the need to improve the purchasing power of the bottom 50% of the country, essential to create a strong domestic market. Thus, we saw that the government started with broadly outlining its vision in 2014 to overhaul the economic policies. Since then, it adopted an efficient approach to reduce leakages by using the DBT and cash transfers to deliver smart subsidies.

The focus was on addressing social issues using campaigns like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao to improve enrolment rates of girls, or ensuring adequate sanitation facilities under the Swachh Bharat programme. Each of these missions required money and the Centre also undertook several measures to improve tax compliance—whether using carrots or sticks. The gradual rationalisation of taxes, whether personal income taxes or corporate ones, in the Budget were thus geared towards a modern taxation structure with rates geared towards the global taxation rates.

Amongst the key social reforms, two of them stand out as significant—first as the financial inclusion program under the Jan Dhan Yojana while the second was the MUDRA Yojana. Both of them ensured that the poor and vulnerable could access bank accounts along with sophisticated formal sector credit for the first time in their lives.

But, the reforms were not just towards the bottom of the pyramid, as the government undertook several productivity enhancing reforms in the form of the GST, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and the mergers of banks—each of these will yield rich dividends over the coming years in the form of productivity gains for the economy.

It is interesting that the very idea of some of these reforms can be traced back to Budgets in the early 2000s and thus, every Budget and a big-bang idea comes with a rich legacy of debate. It is thus important to remember that Budgets represent a continuity of ideas, policies and policy priorities. As India prospers, some of these will change but the central theme of using them as a vehicle for social transformation and public welfare will be constant.

(karanbhasin95@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Appreciation encouraging

India did a fantastic job by sharing millions of Covid vaccines with Brazil and neighbouring countries in South Asia. The appreciation by the US and WHO is definitely encouragement to engage in more such service to humanity in future.
NA Joseph, Ettumanoor

Proud moment for India

The new Joe Biden administration in the US praising India for its Good Samaritan work is a proud moment. But it is dismaying that this international praise from many nations is being weighed against the undying local-grown criticism about the efficacy of our two vaccines.
Ravi Mannethu, Pullad

Mamata's absurd ideas

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee's idea of four capitals is absurd. Since the state elections are approaching and the TMC is threatened by the BJP, she is raising irrelevant and inconsequential issues to try and score points.
Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati

Against secular principles

Raising religious slogans like '*Jai Shri Ram*' at a national event like the one to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose goes against the secular principle of India. '*Vande Mataram*' or something similar would have been better. The PM should have intervened and stopped the slogans.
O Prasada Rao, Hyderabad

Rajini's Hamletian dilemma

This is with reference to *MGR could, Jaya could, Rajini can't* (Jan 24). The article talks about how apprenticeship is indispensable for a political career as well. But Rajinikanth's Hamletian dilemma has been the main negative factor that disqualifies his leadership.
Dharmarajan A K, Thalassery

A breath of fresh air

Rajinikanth may or may not have been successful had he entered the political scene. However, he would certainly have been a breath of fresh air to the otherwise stale and lethargic political scene in the state.
A Raveendranath, Aranmula

Deliberations are important

This is with reference to *Farm laws, the court and the Constitution* (Jan 24). The author's contention that the balanced powers between the Centre and states is on the verge of violation is quite true. In democracy, deliberations amongst all stakeholders are much-needed in the context of imbroglio and impasse.
Chilaka Venkateswarlu, Chennai

The grit of the farmers

The article offers a clear picture on the executive machinations for manoeuvring the farm bills in Parliament, leading to their passage sans due process. The unions with their Gandhian approach and self-sufficient agitations showed their grit.
K Nehru Patnaik, Visakhapatnam

Shadow Budget idea good

This is with reference to *Opposition must compete, present 'shadow' Budget* (Jan 24). The author's suggestion for the opposition to present an alternate vision to revive the economy rather than just criticising the government's plan is an excellent idea. This will be a healthy development for democracy.
R Sriramprasad, Bengaluru

Larry King's death sad

The news about famed American TV show host Larry King's demise was saddening. In a career spanning over six decades, he engaged in tete-a-tetes with highly distinguished personalities. His fans will certainly miss him.
CV Aravind, Bengaluru

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Capt Amarinder Singh @capt_amarinder
Strongly condemn reports of UP Government asking authorities to stop diesel supply to farmers going to Delhi on Republic Day

Dilip Ghosh @DilipGhoshBJP
We are not justifying anyone. If someone is proven guilty, there will be consequences. It's Trinamool that believes in culture of corruption

Surendra Jain @drskj01
What Mamata did yesterday reflects her anti-Hindu mindset...Why does she get angry with 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans?

Farmers from Nashik head to Mumbai to participate in protest organised by Akhil Bharatiya Kisan Sabha on Monday | PTI

Tomar says invisible force wants agitation to go on

Agriculture minister asserts govt is sympathetic, farmers adamant

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AS talks between the Centre and farmers' union remained inconclusive even after eleven round of discussions, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Sunday said that the protesters are only pressing for repealing of the laws without even analysing the pros and cons.

"The farmer unions only talk about the farm laws' withdrawal...That is why the discussions so far did not bear any fruit. There is an invisible force that does not want this agitation to end. I can't see it but I feel there is a force that stresses not ending the agitation and ends up derailing our negotiations," he told a TV channel.

The minister said that the tune of the farmers' union always changes the day after our negotiations. "I don't know what forces pressurise them. The Centre is sympathetic towards farmers and respects unions and hence laws were brought in to increase the income of farmers," the agriculture minister asserted.

On the Centre's offer to put the farm laws on hold for 12-18 months, Tomar said, "We tried to understand their issues, analysed them, and sent the farmers a proposal. They should not have rejected the Centre's proposal on the farm laws. We could have moved forward had they accepted the proposal."

"Farm laws were passed under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi and with the farm laws, the government had attempted to make several changes in the agricultural sector for the benefit of the farmers. The Centre is completely sensitive towards the farmers and has taken several steps forward to hold talks with them to resolve the issues," he added.

> **I am also a farmer. We haven't felt the need to be angry... because in a democracy, unions have a right to agitate**
>
> Narendra Singh Tomar, Agriculture Minister

On whether the Centre is running out of patience with agitating farmers, the minister said, "I am also a farmer. We haven't felt the need to be angry. I request them to sacrifice their desire to take out a tractor rally on Republic Day because in a democracy, unions have a right to agitate but my request is that if they decide to go ahead with it on January 26, I am sure the way farmers' unions have kept the agitation in order, the same will be held in a disciplined order."

Pak handles to disrupt rally: Cops

Over 300 Twitter handles have been generated from Pakistan to disrupt the tractor rally, claimed Delhi Police on Sunday. "(These) handles have been generated from Pakistan during January 13 to 18 to disrupt the tractor rally by farmers only by misleading people. There are inputs about the same from different agencies too. It will be a challenging task for us..." Deependra Pathak, Delhi Police

Cong MP alleges 'attack' at Singhu

Congress MP Ravneet Singh Bittu was allegedly assaulted, pushed around and his turban pulled off in what he described was a "murderous attack" by some "mischievous elements" at the Singhu border. The Ludhiana MP's vehicle was also damaged at the Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji Memorial where he had gone with Congress's Amritsar MP Gurjeet Singh Aujla and party MLA Kulbir Singh Zira.

Stage set for mega kisan tractor rally from Delhi border points on R-Day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE stage is set for one of biggest rallies to be held in India in recent years. With Delhi Police on Sunday finally confirming that it had given permission to hold the *kisan* tractor rally from three border points — Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur — farmers from Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are on their way to the national capital to take out their tractor parade on Republic Day, in protest against the new agriculture laws.

Three routes covering a total of 170 km, of which 100 km will be in Delhi, have been finalised after heated discussions between farmers and police officials, who are on high alert. Numbers are difficult to estimate, but thousands are set to demonstrate their agitation after the official Republic Day parade.

According to Delhi Police, about 12,000-13,000 tractors are already parked at various border points and the number is expected to go up.

Thousands of farmers from Punjab and Haryana, camping on borders of the capital for over two months, will be joined by around 3,000 from Rajasthan, who are planning to turn up in the traditional dress of their state.

Although not in presence, they will be joined in spirit by nearly 50,000 farmers of Maharashtra, who will march to Raj Bhavan in Mumbai and submit a charter of demands to the governor on Monday.

In Haryana, farmers from Karnal, Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Rohtak, Fatehabad and Bhiwani have left for Delhi.

Farmer unions in Punjab have held several tractor rallies across the state to mobilise people for the parade. Women have also been taught how to drive tractors.

(Inputs from Harpreet Bajwa in Chandigarh, Rajesh Asnani in Jaipur, Sudhir Suryawanshi in Mumbai)

Post-Covid may lead to stronger strains

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

FOLLOWING a study of genomes of various variants of Covid-19 virus from over 2 lakh samples, scientists have predicted that the persistence of pandemic may lead to the emergence of newer regional strains with improved fitness.

The scientists analysed 200,865 SARS-CoV-2 genome sequences from 155 countries, which had 2.58 million mutations as of late last year as compared to the reference Wuhan strain. They found about 39% synonymous mutations, mutations that are usually minor and do not change the amino acids while about 51% were non-synonymous mutations, which are mutations that change the amino acids.

Upon comparing the variants predominant in the three new strains, the researchers found four common hotspot mutations, noted scientists attached with the Integrated Cancer Genomics Laboratory, Homi Bhabha National Institute and Institute of Advanced Virology, Kerala.

Their paper "Evolving Insights from SARS-CoV-2 Genome from 200K COVID-19 Patients" says that N501Y was the base mutation in all the three variants, with the South African and Brazilian strains showing additional E484K mutation in the spike protein.

Neither of these two mutations however were seen in the Indian samples, and only two out of 3,361 samples showed S477N (characteristic of European mutations) mutation.

The scientists however said that it is unknown if the absence of these mutations, which have increased binding affinity to the human angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) receptor, could account for the lower transmission in India compared to the UK, Brazil, and South Africa.

Even a modest increase in infectivity rate of a regional variant or a reduction in vaccine efficacy or increased transmission would require immediate stringent measures to be put in place to contain the spread of the strain.

In India, following concerns of spread of UK variants of SARS CoV 2, the national task force on Covid had suggested doing genome sequencing of 5% of all Covid cases nationwide, however it is not yet clear whether this exercise has kicked off. India carried out far less gene mapping compared to UK and US till last month.

Vaccinations cross 16-lakh mark, two more AEFI deaths reported

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AS the number of Covid-19 vaccinations crossed the 16 -lakh mark in India, two more deaths following immunisation were reported in two southern states. One of these deaths was declared not related to vaccination, like the previous 7 deaths, while investigation is still on in ninth death.

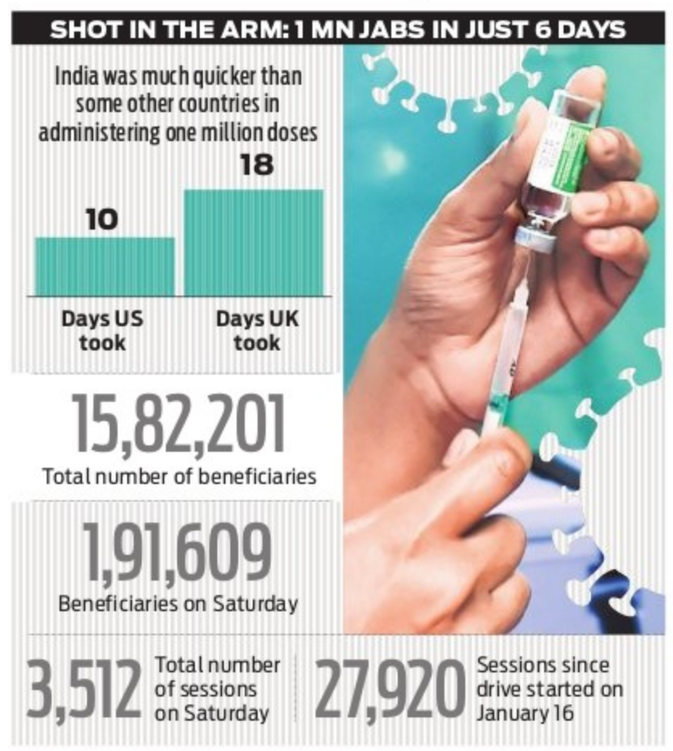
Over 31,000 healthcare workers took the jabs in five states on Sunday. The 31,466 beneficiaries who were vaccinated were from Haryana (907), Karnataka (2,472), Punjab (1,007), Rajasthan (24,586) and Tamil Nadu (2,494) in 693 sessions.

With Sunday's figures, the cumulative number of healthcare workers vaccinated against Covid-19 has reached 16,13,667 through 28,613 sessions, as per the provisional report.

On Sunday, two deaths—one each in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh—in people who had taken Covid-19 shots, were also reported.

An accredited social health activist worker, who was vaccinated five days earlier, died on Sunday morning after suffering complications. She suffered a brain stroke causing her death, according to authorities who ruled that the event was not related to vaccination.

Another 45-year-old female health care worker who had also got the jab five days back in Warangal died on Sunday. In her case, the district adverse event following immunisation committee is examining the matter and will later submit its report to the state AEFI committee for review.


SHOT IN THE ARM: 1 MN JABS IN JUST 6 DAYS
India was much quicker than some other countries in administering one million doses
10
Days US took
18
Days UK took
15,82,201
Total number of beneficiaries
1,91,609
Beneficiaries on Saturday
3,512
Total number of sessions on Saturday
27,920
Sessions since drive started on January 16

PM Modi lauds Indian scientists for corona work

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

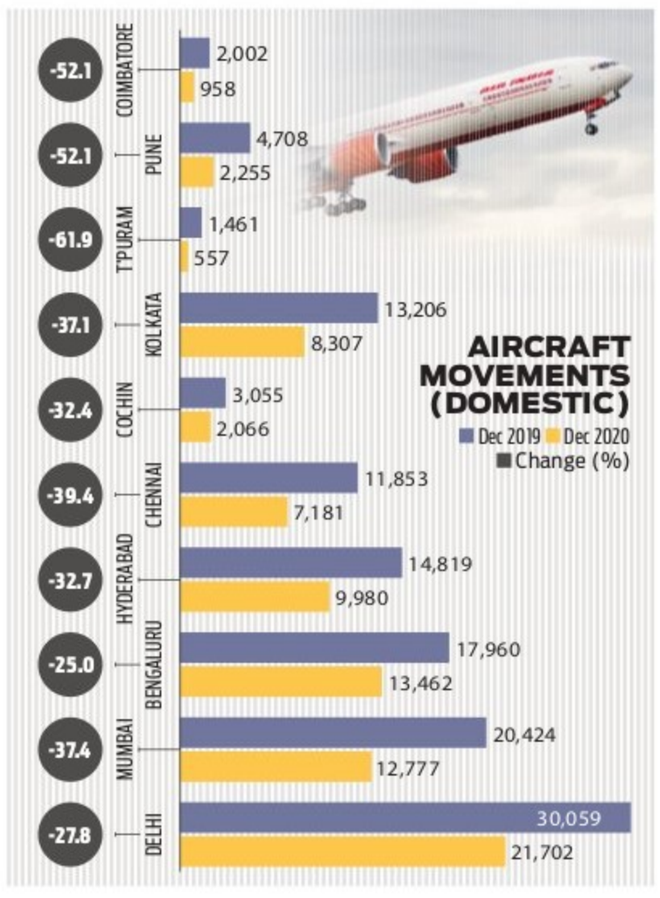
STRESSING on the need of not listening to rumours Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said Indian scientists have done their duty by developing the Covin-19 vaccine and "now we have to fulfil ours" by defeating through the right information every network spreading lies and rumours.

Addressing NCC cadets, NSS volunteers and artists who would be participating in the Republic Day parade, Modi said such organisations have always played their role in dealing with challenging times. "In Covid times also, the work done by you is laudable. When the government and administration needed it, you came forward as volunteers and helped," he said.

"Whether it was spreading awareness about the Aarogya Setu App or coronavirus infection spread, the work done by you was praiseworthy," Modi said.

The prime minister said the youths should now step forward to assist in the COVID-19 vaccination programme by providing the right information to the people.

Domestic air travel still way below normal marks



KUMAR VIKRAM @ New Delhi

DOMESTIC aviation traffic is yet to reach pre-Covid levels, after seven months of resumption of domestic flights. Data of airports disclose that the number of domestic passengers in December was 43 per cent less than the corresponding period in 2019. Similarly, aircraft movement in December was nearly 30 per cent less than 2019.

Mumbai airport, one of the busiest in the world, saw 12,777 aircraft movements in December — a fall of 37.4 per cent from the previous year — according to data from the Airports Authority of India. This was 27.8 per cent less in Delhi and 39.4 per cent in Chennai. Domestic flights resumed with restrictions on May 25, 2020, after the lockdown of two months, with nearly 30,000 passengers. Numbers went up gradually along with the lifting of restrictions.

Data from aviation regulator DGCA disclose that occupancy of airlines or the passenger load factor (PLF) of major commercial airlines was 66-78 per cent in December, around the same recorded previous month, but way below the 80-92 per cent in the same period in 2019. IndiGo's PLF was 71.5, Air India's 66.9 and GoAir's 66.3.

Jitender Bhargava, former Executive Director of Air India and author of 'The Descent of Air India' said, "Business meetings are not taking place like they did earlier. They are meeting mostly through video conferencing. Family and friends are not travelling because nobody is sure if you would get infected or not. Leisure travel is virtually absent because of the fear of travelling. A lot of people have faced lost jobs. There are many factors."

To attract passengers, IndiGo offered all-inclusive fares on domestic flights starting at ₹877. Sanjay Kumar, Chief Strategy and Revenue Officer of IndiGo, said: "The advent of vaccination has improved the sentiment, with people looking at travelling within the country this year. This sale will help them plan domestic travel in advance and at affordable fares."

Not sexual assault if no 'skin to skin' contact: HC

MUMBAI: Groping a minor's breast without "skin to skin contact" cannot be termed as sexual assault as defined under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Bombay High Court has said.

Justice Pushpa Ganediwala of the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court, in a judgement passed on January 19, the detailed copy of which was made available now, held that there must be "skin to skin contact with sexual intent" for an act to be considered sexual assault.

She said in her verdict that mere groping will not fall under the definition of sexual assault. Justice Ganediwala modified the order of a sessions court, which had sentenced a 39-year-old man to three years of imprisonment for sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl.

As per the prosecution and the minor victim's testimony in court, in December 2016, the accused, one Satish, had taken the girl to his house in Nagpur on the pretext of giving her something to eat.

Once there, he gripped her breast and attempted to remove her clothes, Justice Ganediwala recorded in her verdict.

However, since he groped her without removing her clothes, offence cannot be termed as sexual assault and constitutes the offence of outraging a woman's modesty under IPC section 354, the HC held.

While section 354 entails a minimum sentence of imprisonment for one year, sexual assault under the POCSO Act entails a minimum imprisonment of three years.

The sessions court had sentenced him to three years of imprisonment for the offences under the POCSO Act and under IPC section 354. The sentences were to run concurrently. The HC, however, acquitted him under the POCSO Act while upholding his conviction under IPC section 354.

"Considering the stringent nature of punishment provided under POCSO, stricter proof and serious allegations are required," HC said. PTI

Cong slams Centre over rise in fuel prices

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

SLAMMING the Centre over fuel prices touching an all-time high, the Congress on Sunday demanded that the excise duty hike by the Centre be immediately rolled back to give relief to the masses.

Attacking the Centre over rising fuel prices, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that people are suffering due to inflation and the Modi government is busy in tax collection. "What is more shocking is that during the Congress regime when we left power in May 2014, the international crude oil was USD 108 per barrel, but petrol and diesel prices were at ₹71.51 and ₹57.28 per litre respectively, which have increased to ₹85.70 and ₹75.88 in Delhi today despite the crude oil prices coming down to half of that time," said Congress spokesperson Ajay Maken.

Fuel prices touched all time high with hike in latest hike in diesel and petrol prices Saturday. Petrol price in Delhi on Saturday was ₹85.70 per litre and in Mumbai ₹92.28.

KUMBH MELA

Covid test report has been made mandatory for all pilgrims visiting the Mahakumbh 2021. Devotees with negative RT-PCR test report shall only be allowed to enter the Kumbh Mela site, said the SOP by the govt

4 COPS SUSPENDED IN GUJARAT FOR CUSTODIAL DEATH

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	26	12	Mumbai	30	21
Bhopal	26	9	Panaji	32	20
Jaipur	22	7	Patna	24	11
Amritsar	17	4	Lucknow	21	9
Chennai	30	20	Port Blair	30	22
Kolkata	28	19	Imphal	25	5
Srinagar	4	-7	Chandigarh	23	6

'Dynasty politics in BJP too'

The TMC leader took a dig at top BJP leaders for accusing him and Mamata of indulging in dynasty politics. From Kailash Vijayvargiya to Rajnath Singh to Mukul Roy and Adhikari, all had family members in politics and occupying important posts, the Diamond Harbour MP said

Didi's nephew 'exposes' letter accusing Adhikari

Abhishek says the letter reveals the defector extorted ₹6 crore from Sharadha promoter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kolkata

RETALIATING to the BJP's relentless attacks labelling him *Tolabaj Bhaipo* (extortionist nephew), West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee on Sunday 'exposed' a letter purportedly written by jailed Saradha group promoter Sudipta Sen accusing former Trinamool strongman Suvendu Adhikari, who joined the BJP recently, of extorting ₹6 crore from the chit fund firm.

Brandishing the two-page letter at a rally at in South 24-Parganas, the Diamond Harbour MP thundered, "You (Adhikari) don't have the guts to utter my name... I am uttering your name and saying you are an extortionist. You not only took ₹6 crore from Sudipta Sen, but also blackmailed him. In the letter, it is clearly written that the day before he (Sen) went at large, you visited his office and took money from him."

Sen allegedly wrote the letter addressing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and CM Banerjee on December 1. The BJP had inducted Mamata's once-trusted lieutenant Adhikari in the party last month. Since then, the saffron camp has been organising regular rallies projecting him as a key leader. Adhikari's speeches at the rallies since defection has been aimed at portraying Abhishek as an "extortionist" nephew.

Hitting out at the turncoat MLA, Abhishek said, "You were also seen (in Narada sting operation) receiving money from a person and promising him to fix an appointment with me. I should file a defamation case against you." He said he would publicly hang himself if the corruption charges against him are proved.

The TMC leader also took a dig at top BJP leaders for accusing him and Mamata of indulging in dynasty politics. From Kailash Vijayvargiya to Rajnath Singh to Mukul Roy and Adhikari, all had family members in politics and occupying important posts, he said.

He also said he would quit politics if the Centre brings a law allowing only one member from a family in politics, and "there will be only Mamata Banerjee from our family in the TMC from the next moment. I promise that".

'Royal snub' by Raje amid widening rift in Raj BJP

RAJESH ASNANI @Jaipur

IN what is termed by some political analysts as a "royal snub", former chief minister Vasundhara Raje skipped the first meeting of the Rajasthan BJP's core group on Sunday, a day after the group was formed by the party high command in the national capital.

Even though official sources said Raje stayed away after citing "family commitments", political pundits in Jaipur saw it as a royal snub from the former chief minister and BJP national vice-president whose future in the saffron party was much discussed recently.

The BJP's core group for Rajasthan, comprising 12 members and four special invitees, was formed as an effort to stop the infighting among senior leaders of the state unit. Despite being sidelined in the past two years, Raje was included in this group in a bid to patch up the rift, especially between Raje loyalists and the RSS faction headed by state BJP president Satish Poonia, within the state unit.

In recent months, supporters of Raje, opposition leader in the Assembly Gulabchand Kataria, and Satish Poonia and some other BJP veterans had been involved in tussles in social media to get their favourite leaders announced as the chief minister face for the next Assembly elections. Given that this tug of war often created much embarrassment for the party, BJP national general secretary and state in-charge Arun Singh had made some pertinent remarks to tone down this issue.

Arun Singh had advised all senior leaders to desist from infighting, stating that the CM face would ultimately be decided not by social media but by the BJP's parliamentary board at the centre. As for the internal rift in the state unit, Arun Singh remarked, "We do not have any dissensions but some differences of opinion. These differences are not bad for any vibrant party as they enable us to get varying views on all issues."

By giving a place to opposing camps in the core group, the BJP high command had hoped to evolve a balance in the state unit. But with Vasundhara Raje skipping the very first meeting, it seems that the effort to pacify all leaders who are potential chief ministerial candidates will not be an easy task.

We do not have any dissensions but some differences of opinion. These differences are not bad for any vibrant party as they enable us to get varying views on all issues —Arun Singh, BJP state in-charge

SUNNY RELIEF

Boatmen row their Shikaras during a sunny day after a fresh snowfall in Srinagar | PTI

EXPRESS READ

Congress peddling falsehood, says Republic TV

New Delhi: The Republic Media Network on Sunday hit out at the Congress over its allegations that the purported WhatsApp chats of **Arnab Goswami** point to violations of the Official Secrets Act, and claimed that the party was peddling "falsehoods". In a statement, the Republic media group also accused rival TV channel Times Now of manipulating TRPs. The statement comes after Times Network said it is contemplating 'legal actions against BARC for its failure to act on complaints of manipulation of TRPs to favour Republic TV.

Shah plays infiltration card against Congress-AIUDF

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Guwahati

Amit Shah addressing a political rally at Nalbari in Assam on Sunday | PTI

LISTING out the achievements of the BJP-led government in Assam, Home Minister Amit Shah pitched for another term to 'safeguard' the state's interests. Shah on Sunday said the Congress-AIUDF combine would open 'all gates' to infiltrators if voted to power.

Addressing his first political rally in the poll-bound state, Shah took a swipe at the Congress for calling the BJP communal by questioning its alliance with Badruddin Ajmal-led AIUDF, which draws support mainly from Muslims. At the *Vijay Sankalp Samaroh*, Shah asserted that an era of peace and development has been ushered in Assam by the BJP. Appealing to the people to vote for BJP, Shah said Assam has become 'bullet-free and agitation-free' and the next BJP dispensation will make it 'flood-free'.

Shah projected his party as the only alternative capable of safeguarding and promoting the regional culture. He also took a dig at the Assam Jatiya Parishad, a party floated by former AASU leader Lurinjyoti Gogoi, which is tipped to ally with Akhil Gogoi-led Raijor Dal, without naming them, saying they are in the poll arena to help the Congress by trying to cut into votes of the BJP.

These two parties are stridently opposed to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and have alleged the CAA is a 'threat' to Assam's culture and identity. The All Assam Students' Union (AASU), which has led mass agitations over the issue of regional identity in the past, has backed Assam Jatiya Parishad.

Hitting out at Congress, the Home Minister said the party had adopted the colonial policy of 'divide and rule.

Cops to woo Maoists' kin in local dialect

MUKESH RANJAN @Ranchi

INTENSIFYING efforts to eliminate Maoists from the state, Jharkhand Police is using local tribal languages as a tool to reach out to the people in the remote jungles to create awareness against the extremists. The police is also contacting family members of Maoists, asking them to convince their near ones to surrender.

All SPs have been given a list of absconding Maoists so that they can approach their families and inform them about the state government's new surrender policy. This initiative was taken because it was felt that most arrested Maoists were not aware of the surrender policy. Else, they would have surrendered years back. Following the policy, families of surrendered Maoists are given land to live and their children are provided free education. The families are also given the reward money declared on their heads.

"The family members are being made aware of the benefits they will get under the new surrender policy, besides the money declared on their heads. In order to make them comfortable, they are being convinced by police personnel in their local dialects so that they can identify themselves with the police reaching out to them," said Jharkhand Police spokesperson and IG (Operations) Saket Kumar Singh.

"We are trying to convince the family members of the wanted Maoists to persuade their dear ones and avail of the lucrative surrender policy of the government. We are making them aware of the benefits they will get if they succeed in convincing their near ones to surrender," said the IG.

Pamphlet distribution

A large number of area-specific pamphlets in local dialects are being distributed in remote villages. The dialects include Nagpuri, Sadri, Santhali, Ho and Khadia. "We are distributing pamphlets in local languages so that they can understand easily," said IG Saket Kumar Singh

VILLAGERS TO BE SHIFTED TO MAKE ROOM FOR TIGERS

MUKESH RANJAN @Ranchi

FINALLY, decks have been cleared to relocate 210 families living in two villages inside the Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR). Forest officials are looking forward to shifting the villagers out of the reserve forest to reduce pressure on wildlife and wildlife habitat.

A total of eight villages have been identified for relocation to places outside the tiger reserve, of which Latu and Kujrum will be relocated in the first phase.

Relocation of these two villages, according to forest officials, will free up 300 square kms, which can accommodate 30 tigers. Once the villages are relocated, bulldozers will be used before converting the entire area into forests and grasslands.

"Of the eight villages identified for relocation, we will take up two — Latu and Kujrum — in the first phase, making 300 square kms free from human intervention. This will be enough for 30 tigers," said PTR Director YK Das. After this, the village of Hainar will be shifted out of PTR as per the current plan, he added.

₹15L compensation per relocated family

The Palamu Tiger Reserve is spread over 1,129.93 square kms with a core area of 414.08 square kms where these villages are located. The state government has announced that an allowance of ₹5 lakh will be given to each of the families, besides ₹10 lakh as compensation

According to Das, a reassessment of the decisions taken earlier on the other five villages will be done. These are located on the outskirts of tiger reserve. Villages in the buffer area are also being studied and if they make a significant difference, they may also be shifted, he further said.

"Villagers have been identified and the process to de-notify forest land has also started so that it could be registered in the names of beneficiaries," said Das. Villagers have agreed to the proposals, he added.

Das said the process of shifting is likely to be completed in this financial year as the Government of India has released funds.

He added that ₹15 lakh will be given to those who want compensation in cash and those who want land will be given five acres along with basic amenities worth ₹10 lakh. The areas they will be shifted to will have schools and hospitals. As per the plan, 1000 families living in eight villages — Kujrum, Latu, Ramandag, Hainar, Gutucha, Vijaypur, Gopkhad and Pandra — are to be relocated.

The PTR is spread over 1129.93 square kms with a core area of 414.08 square kms where these villages are located.

The state government has announced that an allowance of ₹5 lakh will be given to each of the families, besides ₹10 lakh as compensation as per guidelines of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, if they voluntarily chose to move out. Officials said this is perhaps the first such initiative taken by any state government to provide more facilities to the families getting displaced.

FUTURE LEADER

CM praise for teen who took his seat for a day

VINEET UPADHYAY @Dehradun

HARIDWAR'S teenager Shrishti Goswami, who took charge as chief minister of Uttarakhand for a day on Sunday, received words of praise from Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat.

Praising 19-year-old Goswami, Rawat said: "Such opportunities provide our future leaders insight and experience of what goes on in building the nation. She did very well as Child CM of the Children's Vidhan Sabha. Our daughters are more than capable of bringing in transformation in family, society, nation and the world."

Shrishti Goswami

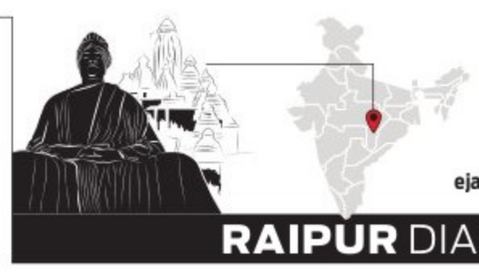
The resident of Daulatpur village and student of BSc agriculture reviewed various state government-run schemes like Atal Ayushman Scheme, Smart City Project, Home Stay Scheme of the tourism department and other developmental projects. "I am thankful to the honourable chief minister for this opportunity. I tried to give my best and will do the same in future as a responsible citizen of the country," she said.

Goswami became chief minister of Bal Vidhan Sabha in 2018. On her one-day stint, she worked from noon to 3 pm, during which officials of around 12 departments including PWD, education, women and child development, tourism and others made detailed presentations.

Srishti's mother Sudha is a housewife and her father Praveen Puri runs a grocery shop. "Me, her mother and our family as well as the village and the neighbourhood are proud of her. We are thankful to our honourable CM and others for this," said Shrishti's father.

Cycle rally with a message in Bastar

Bastar witnessed a bicycle expedition aiming to raise awareness against malnutrition and also to reveal the hidden tourism potential of the region beyond the Maoist-affected zone. Conceptualised by District Collector Rajat Bansal, the cyclists, from within and outside the state, pedalled 95 km to highlight Bastar as a key tourist centre. "The objective was to make Bastar free from malnutrition by highlighting government's nutrition scheme. Also, the region is far more beautiful than several other places," said Bansal. Our effort is to put Bastar on the radar of Indian tourism, he added.



EJAZ KAISER
Our correspondent in Chhattisgarh
ejaz@newindianexpress.com

RAIPUR DIARY

AIIMS to start mind-body medicine research

AIIMS Raipur has signed an MoU with the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, to set up a Centre for Mind-Body Medicine Research in the state capital. The upcoming centre will impart much-needed training and education in the emerging field of mind-body medicine research and into the fields of cancer, stroke, diabetes, obesity, mental health and other life-style related diseased under AYUSH. With the requisite clinical data available and the research gap bridged, modern and traditional medicine can work together with a holistic approach for patients, said Dr Nitin M Nagarkar, AIIMS Director. The Centre will also sensitise physicians, research scholars and students from both Modern Medicine and AYUSH streams.

Highest paddy procurement in 20 years

With nearly 85 lakh tonnes of paddy procured so far, the Chhattisgarh state this year has created a new record in its 20 years of existence. The quantity of paddy procured as well as the number of farmers involved and the agriculture yield have increased in the last two years. Over 19.55 lakh farmers have sold paddy at the minimum support price (MSP) this year. Both the ruling Congress and the opposition BJP have traded barbs against each other on 'diversion and disinformation' on paddy procurement.

Ban on entry to secretariat lifted

In what is seen as a much needed relief to not just for the general public but equally for media persons, the state government has lifted the ban on entry to the state secretariat. Owing to the safety measures in view of Covid-19 pandemic, the General Administration Department in one of its orders in June last year allowed visitors to the secretariat only on the recommendation of officials with the rank of secretary or above. Now the usual official process that was practiced before the ban would be followed. The media persons were also unhappy with the ban as they had to struggle to get their professional work done.

$61,500
paid by US citizen to hunt the highest-rated Astore markhor in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	3	-6	SNY	Los Angeles	13	3	SNY
Colombo	31	22	TDS	Melbourne	22	14	LC
Dhaka	25	13	SNY	Moscow	-18	-19	LC
Dubai	24	16	SNY	New York	5	0	LC
Houston	23	13	LC	Singapore	30	24	LC
Istanbul	2	-4	LC	Toronto	1	-2	LC
London	5	0	SNY	Washington	6	2	LC

Nepal's Prachanda-led faction expels Oli from party

Sources say Nepal PM failed to clarify his stance after being accused of carrying out activities against the Communist Party's interests

KATHMANDU

THE ruling Nepal Communist Party's splinter faction led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Sunday expelled Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli from the party's general membership.

The decision to remove Oli from the party's general membership was taken at the Standing Committee meeting of the faction led by former prime ministers Prachanda and Madhav Kumar Nepal after Oli failed to produce explanation to his recent moves as sought by party leadership, sources said.

Earlier in December, the splinter group had removed Oli, one of the two chairmen of the ruling party, as the party chair. Madhav Nepal was named as the party's second chairman. Prachanda is the first chairman of the party.

The Prachanda-led faction on January 15 sought clarification from Oli alleging that he was carrying out activities that go against the party's policies. The faction decided to strip Oli off even from the ordinary membership of the party after he chose not to furnish any clarification, party sources said.

Oli had been accused of violating party statute by the splinter group.

The latest political development came two days after the NCP's splinter faction led a massive anti-government rally, saying the "unconstitutional" dissolution of the Parliament by Prime Minister Oli has posed serious threats to the country's hard-earned federal democratic republic system.

Prachanda last week said that by dissolving the House, Oli has given a blow to the Constitution as well as the democratic republic system which has been established in the country through seven decades of struggle by the people.

Madhav Nepal, who last month replaced Oli as the chairman of the party by Prachanda-led faction, said the Constitution has not given rights to the prime minister to dissolve Parliament.

Nepal plunged into a political crisis on December 20 after Oli, in a surprise move, dissolved Parliament, amidst a tussle for power with Prachanda. His move to dissolve the House sparked protests.

Oli, who is the chairperson of a faction of the NCP, has said he was forced to dissolve the House after knowing that the Prachanda-led faction was planning to file a no-confidence motion against him. *PTI*

REFERENDUM

'Will seek freedom post Scottish polls'

LONDON

SCOTLAND'S leader said on Sunday that she intends to hold a 'legal referendum' on independence from the UK if she wins Scottish elections scheduled for May.

Such a move would put First Minister Nicola Sturgeon on a constitutional collision course with Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who opposes another secession vote.

Scotland voted to remain in the UK by a margin of 55 per cent-45 per cent in a 2014 referendum that was billed as a once-in-a-generation event. A new binding referendum requires the UK government's approval, and Johnson insists he'll say no.

Sturgeon argues that Brexit has transformed the situation by dragging Scotland out of the European Union against its will. A narrow majority of UK voters opted to leave the EU in a 2016 referendum. *AP*

CHINA TRAGEDY

11 miners pulled out, search on to locate rest

BEIJING

RESCUERS in east China on Sunday pulled out 11 miners from hundreds of metres underground where they had been trapped for two weeks, state media reported, as the race to locate the remaining 10 intensified.

The miners were brought to the surface starting from around 11 am Sunday, state broadcaster CCTV reported — a major breakthrough for a rescue operation that has captivated the nation.

One miner was in "extremely weak physical condition" and rushed to hospital, CCTV said. The 11 miners were rescued after the air ventilator shaft was cleared, the official state news agency Xinhua reported, citing the operation's command centre. A further ten remain unaccounted for. Specialist teams have been battling difficult conditions since an explosion at the Hushan mine in Shandong province trapped the miners underground amid rising waters on January 10.

The explosion occurred in a ventilator shaft, causing a blockage that damaged the cable car.

On Sunday morning the huge obstacles suddenly fell to the bottom of the shaft, allowing the operation to take a big step forward, rescue expert Du Bingjian said.

"After the obstacles fell to the bottom of the shaft, the rescue team started to bring up the miners and suspended the drilling work," Du told the *Global Times*.

"It is currently unclear when the rescuers will reach the Sixth Central Section where the missing miners are believed to be."

State broadcaster footage on Sunday showed a small elevator carriage lifted to the surface, accompanied by rescue workers. A masked man, who appeared unable to stand, was carried out.

Later footage showed emergency workers lifting out other miners, who wore black shades to protect their eyes from the light. One appeared to be holding his hands as if praying. Life detectors have been lowered to other parts of the mine in the hope of reaching those still missing. *AFP*

Biden rolls back Don's contentious census plan

WASHINGTON

THE US Census Bureau is suspending efforts to create neighbourhood-level statistics on the citizenship and age of residents, using 2020 census data, in the latest rollback of Trump administration census-related initiatives that critics feared would be used to favour Republicans and whites during the drawing of state and local districts.

As part of an order President Joe Biden signed on Wednesday on the 2020 census, the Census Bureau said Friday that it would discontinue efforts to create citizenship tabulations at the city-block level using 2020 census data combined with administrative records.

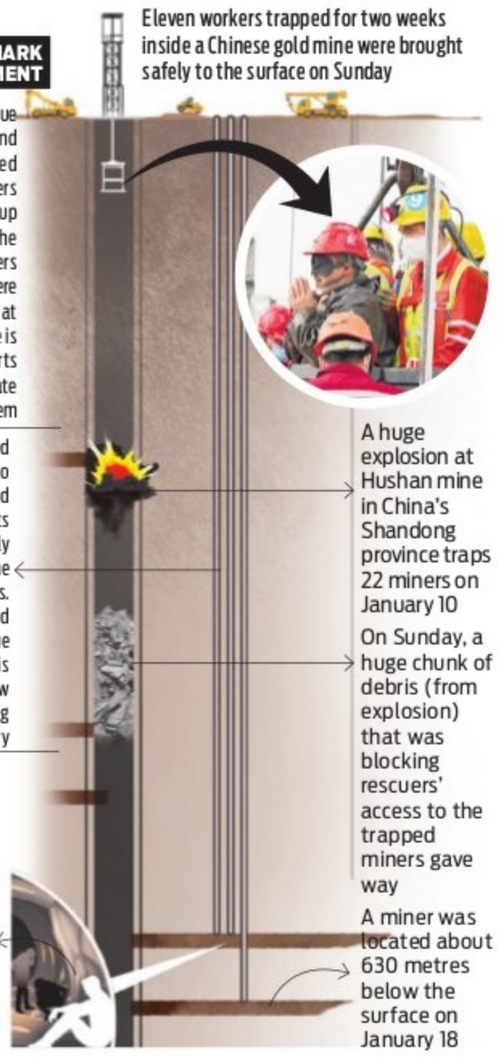
Among his first acts as president, Biden's order revoked two Trump directives related to the 2020 census. The first attempted to discern the citizenship status of every US resident through administrative records, and the second sought to exclude people in the US illegally from the numbers used for apportioning congressional seats among the states.

Trump's commerce secretary, Wilbur Ross, had ordered the production of the block-level citizenship data in 2018.ship for the roughly 11 million people in the US illegally, but it was unclear how quickly he would move while wrestling with the coronavirus pandemic.

MIRACLE AFTER 14 DAYS

A LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENT

Eleven workers trapped for two weeks inside a Chinese gold mine were brought safely to the surface on Sunday


Hundreds of rescue workers and officials applauded as the workers were brought up from the mine The fate of 10 others who were underground at the time is unknown. Efforts are on to locate them
Rescuers drilled parallel shafts to send down food and nutrients and eventually bring up the survivors. Protracted and expensive rescue efforts like this are relatively new in China's mining industry
Contact was first established on January 17 with a group of 11 miners trapped about 580 metres below the surface. One of them was seriously injured.
A huge explosion at Hushan mine in China's Shandong province traps 22 miners on January 10
On Sunday, a huge chunk of debris (from explosion) that was blocking rescuers' access to the trapped miners gave way
A miner was located about 630 metres below the surface on January 18

EXPRESS READ

NZ detects 1st local Covid case in over 2 months

WELLINGTON: New Zealand health officials on Sunday confirmed the first case of Covid-19 for more than two months, sparking urgent contract-tracing efforts north of Auckland. A 56-year-old woman who recently returned from Europe tested positive 10 days after completing a compulsory two weeks in managed isolation, although she noticed symptoms earlier.

Estonia to get its first female PM

Tallinn: Estonia's two biggest political parties say they have clinched a deal to form a new government to be led by a female PM, Kaja Kallas, for the first time in Baltic country.

Druglord arrested in the Netherlands

Hague: The alleged ringleader of Asia's biggest crime syndicate and one of the world's most wanted criminals has been arrested in the Netherlands.

STATE BANK OF INDIA
RETAIL ASSETS CENTRAL PROCESSING CENTRE (RACPC -4) WHITE FIELD (17753)

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Mobile No: **9901187606**
Landline No.(Office): **080-28411010 / 28411020**

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Tel No. 080-28411010/1020
E-Mail: sbi.17753@sbi.co.in

"APPENDIX- IV-A
[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules, 2002

1. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Mortgager that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on **08.02.2021** for recovery of **Rs.62,69,585/-** (Rupees Sixty-two Lakh Sixty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Eight five Only) as on 22.01.2021 You are also liable to pay future interest from 23.01.2021 at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc., due to the Bank, the Secured Creditor from **(1) Sri. Nithin Shetty Muliyalu** S/o Ramayya Shetty Muliyalu and **(2) Smt.A.Sowmya Shetty** W/o Anand Kumar.
The Reserve Price will be **Rs.50,84,000.00** (Rupees Fifty Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be **Rs.5,08,400.00** (Rupees Five Lakh Eight Thousand Four Hundred Only).
Last Date within which EMD to be remitted is 06.02.2021.
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES
Tender No: SBI/RACPC/Whitefield/7/2020-21
Name of the title deed holder: Sri.Nithin Shetty Muliyalu, S/o Ramayya Shetty Muliyalu
Schedule 'A' Property: All that piece and parcel of the converted land bearing Sy.No.11/3, 11/4 measuring to the extent of 30975 Sq. ft. situated at Yelanahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on East by: 60 feet Road, West by: Private Property, North by: Survey No.11/2 and South by: Survey No.11/5
Schedule 'B' Property: 360 Sq.ft. of undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule A Property
Schedule 'C' Property: All that Residential unit bearing No.B-602, 2 BHK Flat on 5th Floor measuring super built up area of about 1345 Sq.ft. inclusive of proportionate share in the common areas such as passage, lobbies, lifts, staircase and other areas of common use including the floor, ceiling and walls between apartment jointly belonging to such other unit owners equally in "ISIRI STONE CREEK" being constructed on Schedule A property and one (1) covered car parking in the basement floor.

2. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Mortgager that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on **08.02.2021** for recovery of **Rs.74,67,624/-** (Rupees Seventy Four Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Four Only) as on 22.01.2021. You are also liable to pay future interest from 23.01.2021 at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc., due to the Bank, the Secured Creditor from **(1) Shri Robin Jocob,** S/o. Jacob C Konikkara Pyloth.
The Reserve Price will be **Rs.10,74,000.00** (Rupees Ten Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be **Rs.1,07,400.00** (Rupees One Lakh Seven Thousand Four Hundred Only).
Last Date within which EMD to be remitted is 06.02.2021.
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES
Tender No: SBI/RACPC/Whitefield/8/2020-21
Name of the title deed holder: Shri Robin Jocob, S/o Jacob C Konikkara Pyloth
Schedule "A" Property: All that Part and parcel of immovable property bearing (1) Sy. No.5/3 measuring 2 Acres 27 Guntas, (2) Sy No. 46 measuring 2.00 Acres (3) Sy No .47 measuring 2.00 Acres, (4) Sy No. 48 measuring 2.00 Acres. Totally measuring 8 Acres 27 Guntas of land excluding Kharab, situated at Andhapura Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Tq converted for non-Agricultural Residential purpose through conversion order No. BDS/ALN/SR(A) 66-2001-02/26.02.02 and bounded on the East by : Property bearing Sy Nos. 46 & 5/4, West by: Property bearing Sy Nos. 49 & 5/1,North by: Property bearing Sy Nos. 5/2, 2/4, and 5/5, South by: Property bearing Sy Nos. 45, **Schedule "C" Property:** All that part and parcel of Residential apartment bearing JS No.303, in II Floor, in Block'J 'of "ITTINA NEELA" built in Schedule 'A' Property measuring 550 Sq ft of Super Built Area inclusive of a proportionate share in common areas, passages, lobbies, staircase and other areas together with 165 Sq ft undivided share in right title, interest including one open car parking.

3. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Mortgager(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on **08.02.2021** for recovery of Rs.61,02,657.00 (Rupees Sixty-One Lakh Two Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Seven Only) as on 22.01.2021 You are also liable to pay future interest from 23.01.2021 at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc., due to the Bank, the Secured Creditor from (1) **Sri. Sudhakar Kandukuri** S/o K Subbalakshmaiah and (2) **Sri.Venkataratnam Pulipati** S/o Late Leela Chandrashekar Rao.
The Reserve Price will be **Rs.42,49,000.00** (Rupees Forty Two Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be **Rs.4,24,900.00** (Rupees Four Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Nine hundred Only).
Last Date within which EMD to be remitted is 06.02.2021.
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES
Tender No: SBI/RACPC/Whitefield/9/2020-21
Name of the title deed holder: (1)Sri. Sudhakar Kandukuri and (2) Sri.Venkataratnam Pulipati S/o Late Leela Chandrashekar Rao.
Schedule "A" of the property: All the part and parcel of property bearing present BBMP Khatha N. 253, Muncipal No.222, in Sy.No. 38/2, and Sy.No.38/5 (Old Sy.No. 38/1), both converted [Sy No. 38/5 – conversion order No. ALN(EKHW) SR!97/2012-13 dated 12.08.2013 and SY No. 38/2– conversion order no. ALN(EKHW) SR!173/2011-12 dated 20.09.2013 issued by DC, Bangalore District] situated at NallurHalli village, K .R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Measuring East to west on the Northern side 118 ft 04 inches, on the Southern side 121 ft 09 inches, and North to South on the eastern side 108 ft 01inches and western side 108 ft 03 inches, totally 12,976 ft, standing in the name of Sri. Sudhakar Kandukuri and Sri.P. Venkataratnam and the same is bounded on the: East by: Road and thereafter land in Sy.No. 38/2, West by:Land in Sy.No. 38/1 and remaining portion of the same Sy. No.38/2, North by:Land in Sy.No.39, South by:Road and thereafter land in Sy.No. 38/2.
Schedule "B" of the property: 355 sq.ft. un-divided right, title and interest in the property mentioned in Schedule "A" of the property
Schedule "C" of the property: Flat bearing No.404 in the 4th floor measuring 1,116 sq.ft. super built up area with 2 bed rooms and the building known as "Jai Fortune" constructed over schedule "A" of the property.

4. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Mortgager that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on **08.02.2021** for recovery of Rs.8,56,367 (Rupees Eight Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Seven Only) as on 22.01.2021. You are also liable to pay future interest from 23.01.2021 at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc., due to the Bank, the Secured Creditor from (1) **Miss. Nerosha B D/o Sri. P Bhaskar** and (2) **Smt. Uma Bhaskar W/o Sri. P Bhaskar.**
The Reserve Price will be **Rs.34,18,000.00** (Rupees Thirty four Lakh Eighteen Thousand Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be **Rs.3,41,800.00** (Rupees Three Lakh Forty One Thousand Eight Hundred Only).
Last Date within which EMD to be remitted is 06.02.2021.
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES
Tender No: SBI/RACPC/Whitefield/10/2020-21
Name of the title deed holder: Miss. Nerosha B D/o Sri.P Bhaskar
SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing BBMP Khatha No.347, Sy.No.1/07, carved out of converted land bearing Sy.No.1/7 measuring 8 Guntas or 8712 Sq.Ft. converted from Agricultural purpose to Nonagricultural vide Official Memorandum bearing No.A.L.N.(E)SR(KH) 06/ 2013-14 dated 07.08.2013, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District, Bengaluru situated at Sonnathamanahalli Village @ Thambuchetty Palya, K R Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on East by: Sri.J.Balappa's property, West by: Land of Sri.M.S.Jacob, North by: Land of Sri.Jayaram Reddy and South by: Road.
Schedule B Property: 312 Sq. Ft undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule "A" above
Schedule C property: Residential Flat bearing No.104 in the First Floor measuring 1055 Sq.ft Super Built up Area, containing Two bedrooms, with RCC Roofing, Vitrified Flooring and Aluminium Windows together with One Covered Car Parking Space along with proportionate share in common areas such as Passages, Lobbies, Lift and Staircase contained in the multistoried building constructed on the Schedule "A" property known as "**S M SILVER OAK**" standing in the name of Miss Nerosha B. vide Sale Deed dated 18.03.2016 and registered as Document No.BNS-1-18850/2015-16 and CD No.BNSD 420 at the office of the Sub Registrar, Shivajinagar (Banaswadi), Bengaluru and mortgaged in favour of the Bank vide Document No.BNS-1-18852/2015-16 and CD No.BNSD420 at the office of the Sub Registrar, Shivajinagar (Banaswadi) Bengaluru on 18.03.2016.

5. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower and Mortgager that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on **08.02.2021** for recovery of Rs.61,56,952.00 (Rupees Sixty One Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Five Two Only) as on 22.01.2021 + interest from 23.01.2021at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc., due to the Bank, the Secured Creditor from **Sri.M.Ravindra Kumar** S/o Subba Reddy Mannen.
The Reserve Price will be **Rs.53,28,000.00** (Rupees Fifty Three Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be **Rs.5,32,800.00** (Rupees Five Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Only).
Last Date within which EMD to be remitted is 06.02.2021.
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES
Tender No: SBI/RACPC/Whitefield/11/2020-21
Name of the title deed holder: Sri.M.Ravindra Kumar S/o Subba Reddy Mannen.
SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY: All the piece and parcel of land bearing present BBMP Khata No.112/1 and 112/2-1, situated at Kaggadasapura, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, comes within the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.83, measuring East to West: on the Southern side 56 feet, Northern side 64 feet, North to South: 92 feet, totally measuring 5520 sq. ft, and bounded on the: East by: Private property bearing No.112/3 belonging to Mr.M.Muniyappa, West by: Drain and Road, North by: Remaining portion of Property bearing No.112/1, South by: Road.
SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY: 400 sq ft undivided share, right, title and interest and ownership in the Schedule A. property.
SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY: All the part and parcel of Flat No. 401, fourth Floor, measuring super built Area 2000 sq ft, containing two bed rooms with RCC roofing, vitrified tiles flooring and Honne wood doors and windows together with one covered car parking space, including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase and lift constructed on Schedule 'A' property known as "L S NIVAS' and municipal No.112/1 and 112/2-1/16, PID No.83-54-112/1-112/2-1/16 standing in the name of Shri.M.RavindraKumar,S/o Subba Reddy Mannen.

6. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Mortgager(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on **22.02.2021** for recovery of **Rs. 8,84,025.00** (Rupees Eighty Lakh Eighty four Thousand Twenty five Only) as on 22.01.2021.+ future interest from 23.01.2021 at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc., due to the Bank, the Secured Creditor from **1. Sri V Sridhar,** S/o Sri Vijaya Bhaskar, and **2.Smt. V. Usha Nandini** W/o Sri Vijaya Bhaskar.
The Reserve Price will be **Rs.32,61,000.00** (Rupees Thirty two Lakh Sixty-one Thousand Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be **Rs.3,26,100.00** (Rupees Three Lakh Eighty Twenty-six Thousand One Hundred Only). **Last Date within which EMD to be remitted is 20.02.2021.**
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES:
Tender No: SBI/RACPC/Whitefield/12/2020-21
Name of the title deed holder: Smt. V. Usha Nandini W/o Sri Vijaya Bhaskar Sri V Sridhar, S/o Sri Vijaya Bhaskar,
SCHEDULE "A" PROPERY: All the part and parcel of property bearing Corporation No.82/3-1 (previously re-sy.#82/3), Ward No.83 situated at Kaggadasapura Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk measuring East to West 75'10" +73" 10" / 2 and North to South 131'1" + 126'3" / 2 measuring in all about 9614 sq.feet, and bounded on:
East by: Property No.82/4 ,West by : Property No.82/2, North by: Road, South by:Property belonging to Sri Narayana Reddy
SCHEDULE "B" PROPERY: 1358/30348th share of un divided right and interest in the schedule A property, un devised share being 430.48 sq. feet given herein above and the residential apartment in the ground floor of the construction named as **"JAYA EMERALD"** residential apartment as No.G-06 **(APARTMENT NO. G-06 IN GROUND FLOOR)** measuring super built up area of 1358 sq. feet consisting of
Three bed rooms with proportionate right in the common area and one covered car parking area in the basement of construction numbered as G-06.The apartment having ceramic tile flooring with Honne wood doors and aluminium windows.

7. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Mortgager that thebelow described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on **22.02.2021** for recovery of **Rs. 48,10,684.00** (Rupees Forty Eight Lakh Ten Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Four Only) as on 22.01.2021.+ future interest from 23.01.2021at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc., due to the Bank, the Secured Creditor from **1. Sri. Irfan A Kaladagi** S/o Sri. Abdul Khadar and **2.Sri.Tanveer M Patel** S/o Sri.Mooja Patel.
The Reserve Price will be **Rs.87,70,000.00**(Rupees Eighty SevenLakh Seventy Thousand Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be **Rs.8,77,000.00** (Rupees Eight Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Hundred Only).
Last Date within which EMD to be remitted is 20.02.2021.
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES
Tender No: SBI/RACPC/Whitefield/13/2020-21
Name of the title deed holder: Sri. Irfan A Kaladagi S/o Sri. Abdul Khadar and Sri.Tanveer M Patel S/o Sri. Mooja Patel
All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Village Khatha No.126, Old Khatha No.213 C, after V.P.Khatha No.265/213-C, Present BBMP Khatha No.916/577/613, situated at Varthur Gram Panchayath, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West: 34 feet and North to South: 36 feet, standing in the name of Sri. Irfan A Kaladagi S/o Sri. Abdul Khadar and bounded on: East by: 6 feet Road and Property of Sarojamma Late Krishnappa, West by: 15 feet Road, after Gopal Rao property , North by: Property of Govindraj, South by: Property of Sabu Sab.

8. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Mortgager that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on **22.02.2021** for recovery of Rs. 41,67,088.00 (Rupees Forty one Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Eighty Eight Only) as on 22.01.2021. + future interest from 23.01.2021 at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc., due to the Bank, the Secured Creditor from **Smt. S. Lekha W/o S Rudra Murthy Prop: M/s Sree Shakthi Engineering, GF and Sri. S Rudra Murthy S/o R Srinivasan.**
The Reserve Price will be **Rs.28,27,000.00** (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be **Rs.2,82,700.00** (Rupees Two Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Only). **Last Date within which EMD to be remitted is 20.02.2021.**
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES
Tender No: SBI/RACPC/Whitefield/16/2020-21
Name of the title deed holder: Smt. S. Lekha W/o S Rudra Murthy
All that piece and parcel of Residential building with Ground and First floor situated at site No. 362, 3rd phase, 4th Block, 8th Main road, J C Nagar Slum, West of Chord Road, Bangalore 560 079, BDA Khatha No. BDA/KHPV/362/1999-2000, site measuring East to West 7.62 meters(25 feet) and North to South 6.09 meters (9.98 feet) totally 46.41 sq.meters (499,56 sq.ft) standing in the name of Smt. S Lekha and the same is bounded on the:East by: Site No.383, West by: 8th Main Road, South by : Site No.361, North by : Site No.363.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://bankeauctions.com, www.tenders.gov.in and Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.sbi.co.in.

Date:22.01.2021
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Authorized Officer

RAJAS KELKAR

SENSEX @50,000: What to expect next

Indian firms remain better placed for growth than those in richer nations

THE 30-share BSE Sensitive Index, or Sensex, has crossed the 50,000-mark for the first time in history. The journey of the Sensex has been remarkable since 1979 when it was 100. It rose 30 times over the next 20 years and has further gained 17 times in value over the subsequent 20 years. Even if we assume that it grows 10 times from the present level in the next two decades, we are talking about a value of 5,00,000. It may grow more, not less.

Share prices move in line with profits of the index constituents. Most companies depend on India's economic growth. There are clear challenges on that road, however. The first begins with the Union Budget in a few days. It is very clear that India's economy is all set to witness a contraction for the first time in many decades. The actual numbers could vary and would be known only in the first half of 2021. The banking sector is riddled with non-performing loans. A lot of money is lying idle in the banking system when deserving borrowers should get it for business expansion. A lot of gains in the stock market are largely driven by the cheap money flowing in from foreign portfolio investors.

A new article in the latest bulletin from the Reserve Bank of India assesses the state of India's economy. It argues that the recent shifts in the macroeconomic landscape have brightened the outlook, with GDP in striking distance of attaining positive territory and inflation easing closer to the target. It talks of a 'V'-shaped recovery where the 'V' stands for vaccine. It is not the classical sharp bounce-back, but one dependent on the government's effort to vaccinate the country.

The article singles out e-commerce and digital technologies as the bright spots for India's recovery. That is in a world where pre-pandemic levels of output and employment are a long way off. "It will take years for the Indian economy to mend and heal, but innovative approaches can convert the pandemic into opportunities," the article said.

Developments in 2020 have ushered in a new digital transformation on the back of strengthening consumption demand and growing corporate sector business transactions.

Between April and December 2020, digital transactions under the Unified Payment Interface, or UPI, have nearly tripled in value. Similarly, all other forms of digital transactions like NEFT and RTGS have doubled in value too.

"An urban reform agenda can be set up across seven thematic pillars: planning; housing; transport; environment; public health; gender; and vulnerable populations," the RBI article quotes a suggestion from the World Economic Forum. It actually calls on the government to pay heed and make announcements to that effect in the budget.

A lot of analysts' reports published ahead of the budget are anticipating that the government will boost capital expenditure in high growth infrastructure sectors such as roads, railways, and housing.

What this means for you

The path towards a new record value in Sensex is full of challenges. If you are at a stage where you are planning retirement, your children's education, or other long-term goals, it is a wonderful time to start. That is despite the dramatic surge in share prices in recent times. Interest rates are likely to remain low for a long time to come. As a result, the cheap money will continue to find ways into assets like equities, property, and gold. As far as Indian companies are concerned, the potential for growth continues to be better than businesses in rich countries. A young, high consumption-driven economy is likely to grow faster than most countries in the rich world.

If you are new to the world of investing, you may want to immediately engage a financial advisor. Equity investing is most likely to be volatile and not for the faint-hearted. You need to decide on your financial goals right away. Giving a direction to your savings is another good idea. Regular monthly investments through mutual funds is the best approach and, if that is still a bit complicated for you, index investing is a good first step.

(The writer is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

MONEY-WISE

ELSS: TAX SAVING AVENUE FOR EQUITY INVESTORS

FINANCIAL ADVICE
ASHOK KUMAR
heads LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

IT has been an unprecedented financial year fraught with uncertainty for both salaried individuals and business owners. For the fortunate ones that survived the axe, it is time now to plan for some tax savings. For investors, the sole pure equity option, and as the 3-year return on investment numbers suggest, the best one too, remains the Equity Linked Saving Schemes (ELSS) offered by mutual fund houses. The reason for focusing on 3-year returns here is simply because the lock-in period for ELSS is 3 years, which makes it the shortest tenure tax saving instrument.

For the rest, where the underlying investment vehicle is debt, the minimum lock-in period is at least 5 years, with most being even longer. Of such investment options, the Public Provident Fund (PPF), remains the most popular tax saving debt-based investment for those averse to equity. The lock-in period is 5 times longer in this case, though the returns are tax-free, unlike the ELSS schemes.

Another popular option is the Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP) offered by insurance companies, where the lock-in period is restricted to 5 years—though ideally one should hold it for longer tenures to optimize returns.

In the case of ULIPs, the investor also has two way fungibility between Equity and Debt. A unique feature of ELSS, for those that face liquidity constraints, is that once the funds complete 3 years of investment, the same can be redeemed and reinvested without having to bother about a fresh infusion of funds to save taxes under Section 80C. Let us now proceed to cast a glance at a few ELSS funds that have performed reasonably well over the years.

Canara Robeco Equity Tax Saver Fund has an AUM of ₹1,476 crore and invests in a mix of Large cap (71 per cent) and Mid cap (25 per cent) with the balance 4 per cent in small caps. This fund's 1-year return stands at 27.15 per cent and 3-year return at 13.74 per cent. It has invested largely in the Financial and Tech sectors.

Axis Long Term Equity Fund has an AUM of ₹27,181 crore. It has currently invested mainly into Large Caps (around 84 per cent) with the remaining in Mid caps (14 per cent) and Small Caps (2 per cent). It has delivered returns of 16.44 per cent and 11.22 per cent over the 1-year and 3-year periods respectively. Its highest allocation is in the financial sector at 35 per cent.

ICICI Prudential Long Term Equity Fund (Tax Saving) has an AUM of ₹7,784 crore. Its portfolio comprises of Large cap (77 per cent), Mid Cap (12 per cent) and Small Cap (11 per cent). This fund has delivered returns of 14.35 per cent over a 1-year timeframe and 8.03 per cent over three years.

Investors considering investments in ELSS would do well to consider completing it during the early part of the year so that their compounding tenure increases.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

ADITYA BIRLA F & R

Current Price ₹171.85

Target Price ₹200

ABFRL's execution over the last few years has been outstanding as the Lifestyle segment reached scale of ₹46b in FY20. ABFRL's sharp cost rationalization with a 45% reduction in operational cost cushioned EBITDA loss in 2QFY21. The Lifestyle segment and Pantaloons brand are well-placed to expand in the Retail sector too.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *TNIE*.

EXPRESS READ

India sees 19 IPOs worth $1.84 bn in Dec qtr

New Delhi: Reflecting strong momentum, India witnessed 19 initial public offers worth $1.84 billion in the fourth quarter of 2020 and market sentiment remains positive in what could be a stellar 2021, according to EY's India IPO Trends Report. The period saw a total of 10 IPOs in the main market and 9 in the SME (Small and Medium Enterprises) segment. The largest IPO during the quarter was that of Gland Pharma with an issue size of $869 million.

BPCL expects to expand customer base 10-fold

New Delhi: Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) expects to expand its customer base 10-fold to one million under a new customer loyalty campaign, said a senior company official. The new campaign from the company called 'Get 100X Bonus Petromiles' under its programme 'SmartDrive' will offer customers benefits like extra bonus reward points on each transaction of fuel purchase through a scratch card in the SmartDrive App, it said in a statement.

`660 crore extra funds granted to MP

New Delhi: The finance ministry on Sunday said it has allocated an additional ₹660 crore to Madhya Pradesh for capital expenditure to undertake citizen-centric reforms. "A list of capital projects with an estimated cost of ₹660 crore was approved by the Department of Expenditure. Fifty per cent of the approved amount (i.e. ₹330 crore) has also been released to the state (Madhya Pradesh) as first instalment for the approved projects," it said in a statement.

Chances of big-ticket relief bleak, but salaried expect more tax exemptions

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

FROM sudden job losses and salary cuts to increased expenses, the working middle class has had a rough time through the pandemic. And though experts have ruled out any big ticket relief in the Union Budget, here are a few measures that the salaried expect from the exercise.

Tax slabs

An increase in the minimum income tax bracket is long overdue and it's something that every salaried individual looks forward to every Union Budget. Currently, those with a taxable income of up to ₹2.5 lakh per year, do not have to pay any tax.

"The first question post-budget we are asked is how much more or less tax do I have to pay now. With the new salary structure, the take home part is going to be reduced. We also do not see major salary increaments in the near future. At best, companies will compensate for the loss, so the tax slabs should be increased... at least to ₹3.5 lakh. This will give a major relief to the salaried class and boost consumption too," said Rohit Jain, a personal finance advisor.

Deduction and Exemption

The existing tax exemption limit is ₹1.5 lakh, which was last revised in 2014. The salaried class would also be served if the upcoming Budget results in an increase in the yearly deduction allowed under section 80C from ₹1,50,000 to ₹3,00,000.

While a major change in tax slabs has been ruled out, experts say that the government is likely to increase the exemption limit under Section 80D for health insurance premiums, which will encourage people to opt for adequate health cover. The government is also considering hiking the exemption limit for the National Pension Scheme. More flexibility being extended for NPS withdrawals is also expected. At present, an account-holder can withdraw 60 per cent tax free and rest is to be mandatorily invested in annuities.

"Providing additional tax benefit for new home buyers (will be) a welcome initiative. The government can extend higher tax rebates on interest repayments on home loans, which will also help the ailing realty sector," Jain noted.

Potential tax relief measures this Budget

- While large scale changes in tax slabs are unlikely, deductions under 80C may be hiked
- National Pension Scheme withdrawals may be made more flexible, while the NPS exemption may also be hiked
- Experts note that extending tax benefits for home-buyers will be a welcome move since it will help the flagging realty sector too

DEBT MANAGEMENT

Prepaying your home loan may not always be the best move: Experts

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

MANY consider home loans a burden and seek to get rid of it as soon as possible by planning for a pre-payment, but is this the right thing to do? Experts point out that while being debt-free is very wise, one should never ignore their other financial needs while trying to prepay loans quickly.

"People have to be very mindful while trying to prepay loans quickly. Different aspects of financial life, such as funds needed for emergencies, health expenditures, and children's education, should be taken into consideration before deciding to prepay your loans," said Sanjay Kumar, a wealth advisor.

According to experts, one should not make the mistake of using funds set aside for emergencies to prepay home loans, since one never knows when an emergency will strike. Many people compromise on their day-to-day needs and savings while trying to get rid of their home loans fast, they add, pointing out that it was not the best move. "Plan your financial needs first and the surplus amount can be used to prepay your loan every month," noted Kumar.

Financial planners also point out that there is another viable option where instead of using an availble surplus to pre-pay the loan, a borrower may put it into other assets such as equities. Reasonable returns would offer the chance of using the proceeds to prepay the amount in a lump sum.

People have to be very mindful while trying to prepay loans. Different aspects such as funds needed for emergencies and children's education, should be taken into consideration

Sanjay Kumar, Wealth advisor

For those who have decided to prepay a loan, experts advise that one first needs to calculate the opportunity cost. This is the benefit forgone by not investing the same sum that you are planning to prepay in an available asset class. In case the opportunity cost is lower than the money saved through interest, it would make sense to only make a part pre-payment of the home loan.

One should weigh all options and, if required, should not hesitate to seek an expert's advice before choosing the best way forward, they add.

SC to hear Franklin Templeton fund case today

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court is expected to consider the Franklin Templeton debt fund case on Monday, January 25, and decide on how the assets of the six closed debt funds will be distributed to investors or liquidated, according to reports.

The Supreme Court had, on December 3, 2020, issued an interim order allowing the firm to seek the consent of unitholders for winding up the six schemes. However, while the asset management firm said last week that an "overwhelming majority" of the unit-holders in the funds had voted for winding down the schemes, the SEBI-appointed observer in his report had highlighted instances where there were "significant variations in the e-voting process followed by FTMF".

According to the report, about 38 per cent of the unit-holders participated 'on an overall basis' in the e-voting. Reports also say that a group of investors have approached the apex court challenging the results of the e-voting process.

Experts say it is unclear how these matters will inform the court's decision. The Supreme Court is slated to decide on how the funds in the six schemes are to be distributed to the unit-holders.

As of December 31, 2020, the six schemes that had been shut down had received ₹13,120 crore from maturities, pre-payments, and coupons. Currently, five out of the six closed down schemes are cash positive and sources say that there is ₹8,527 crore in these five schemes that can be returned to unit-holders.

Inflows into the six closed down schemes has risen steadily over the past few months, with the amount of money received by the six schemes over 40 per cent higher than what was expected in the maturity profile that was published for April 23, 2020.

The only scheme that still has outstanding borrowing—Franklin India Income Opportunities fund—has also recorded substantial improvement, with outstanding borrowing steadily coming down from 37.55 per cent as on April 24, 2020, to 6 per cent at the end of December 2020.

BUYER'S MARKET

Pandemic fallout makes home-buying an attractive prospect

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

IF sliding real estate prices weren't compelling enough a reason to purchase your dream home last year, market analysts have placed their bet on residential real estate as a top asset class for this year too. Almost decade-low real estate prices coupled with low interest rates, analysts note, are ideal for anyone looking to purchase a home.

The real estate market was among the worst hit during the pandemic, and the fiscal measures announced by the government aimed at increasing demand for affordable housing and other measures such as the stamp duty waivers now being offered by top developers are poised to benefit buyers in the affordable housing segment (priced up to ₹45 lakh).

Another reason for the declining prices in the housing segment, according to a recent from PropTiger report, is the unsold inventory from last year, which is pushing realtors to first selling existing stock.

"I was actually surprised to find so many options for ready-to-move apartments this year compared to last year. There are multiple choices in the market right now. We know that investing in an unfinished project is risky considering market uncertainty and delays

on the part of builders. Ready-to-move properties are far better that way," said Priya Jain, a software engineer working in Bengaluru.

In many markets, negotiations with agents or builders may even lead to discounts to the tune of 10-15 per cent, but some warn that buyers should be cautious about later price adjustments made in stamp duty and other taxes. A 3-5 per cent commision taken by agents earlier is also reduced currently, market sources say.

Additionally, builders have also leveraged digital platforms to directly connect with potential buyers and provide a real-time house-hunting experience without stepping out during the pandemic.

Financial planners, however, say that before deciding to go for your final house purchase, one should consider the budget required in the long term if there is a mortgage involved. It is always advisable to reduce your reliance on a home loan for your purchase and put down as large a down payment as affordable, they add.

"Although a 20 per cent down-payment is ideal, many first-time home-buyers may find that a difficult task. In such cases, one should try to pay at least 5-10 per cent of the total purchase at the earliest and the rest can be availed in the form of a loan," said Sudheer Singh, a real estate consultant.

Home buyers should also keep an eye on other factors, such as the credibility of the builder, required certifications from RERA, verification of documents required, and personal preferences before finalising a home purchase.

Sangakkara director of cricket at Royals

Kumar Sangakkara was on Sunday appointed as the director of cricket by Rajasthan Royals for the upcoming IPL season. Sangakkara will be responsible for overseeing the entire cricketing ecosystem of the franchise including coaching structure.

OFF SPIN AND TALES FROM DOWN UNDER

Ashwin talks about his show against Smith, how competition has spurred him until now & pathway for upcoming tweakers

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

THE recently concluded India-Australia series reminded the world about the varied talents of Ravichandran Ashwin. He excelled with the ball, picking up 12 wickets and continuously troubling Steve Smith, and bat, with his unbeaten 39 in the second innings at a Sydney helping India to draw that match. He reflected on those achievements and spoke about what's next to select media on Sunday. Excerpts:

What changed after the first Test? You were more involved and in the ear of the bowlers...
There was no considerable change. It could just be the requirement of the particular day. We had quite a bit of inexperience in the attack. We were 36 all out and we presented ourselves with a wonderful opportunity to turn things around. It is just a natural energy one brings out on the field.

How vital was the Sydney knock for you as a batsman?
I feel when I've just been playing Test cricket, it's pretty much one game here or there and I'm constantly fighting with someone else for the lone spinner slot. And if I have to be judged on my batting skills then I think an innings or two alone to drop me out of a particular series, I felt wasn't quite justified.

Despite playing for more than a decade, do you still feel that you have to prove yourself in every game? Is it justified?
I don't know if it's justified. It's a battle that I always fought. It's not a new territory for me. My belief is that there will always be someone who will be competing with you. That's life. I accepted this at a young age. The competitions have got the best out of me. I have no complaints. I feel whatever I have left ahead of me will also be on the same lines. So I have decided to play every Test like my first.

Duels with Steve Smith... best you ever had in your career?
There has been a lot of noise about how I'm bowling, and pitting me against someone like Nathan Lyon. During the previous tour in Adelaide, I took six wickets and kept on bowling despite a tear in the abdomen. After the match, there was a comparison between us with suggestions of how well Lyon bowled. I felt it was extremely insensitive towards a good performance. That was the lowest I ever felt in my life after Southampton (2018).

I feel I've been constantly put under the microscope. I did take it upon myself personally. I thought I must be competing against Smith. There were records that he had never got out to spinners in Australia. I wanted to turn that around. A lot of people were talking about who will dismiss Smith. But, nobody gave me a chance. Then, I made sure that people spoke about me at the end of the series.

Are there enough spinners coming through?
Everything is a perception. Ten years ago, people were saying the same about our fast bowling department and 15 years ago, about our batting department. A lot of wickets and the way spinners are being dealt with in first-class cricket is not giving the sort of comfort to spinners.

When I came through the first-class ranks, my first captain was S Badrinath and coach was (WV) Raman. The learning I had under them is not the same for spinners right now.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Bopanna seeking new partner for Oz Open

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@Chennai

ROHAN Bopanna will have to find a new partner for the Australian Open after Joao Sousa withdrew from the event. The Portuguese, who hadn't travelled with the main group to Melbourne to begin a two-week quarantine, had contracted Covid-19 last week. He has since tested negative for the virus but Sousa, World No 75 in doubles, said he will have to skip the Major event because of the government's mandatory two-week quarantine.

"Even though I already tested negative and have no symptoms, due to the strict rules of the Australian government, I won't be able to travel," he wrote on his Instagram page on Saturday. Considering the event begins on February 8, Sousa will still be in quarantine on the first day of competition.

This has left Bopanna with the arduous ask of finding a new partner while being in a quarantine. "Yes, he has (not travelling to Australia) and I've to find a new partner," Bopanna told this daily. "The last date for entry is on February 4."

While most of the players currently in Melbourne can practice and use the gym for up to five hours everyday, Bopanna cannot. Because he came in a flight that registered one positive case, he has since been confined to his hotel room. He will only exit that two-week hard quarantine after the next 5-6 days. The challenge now for the the World No 38 is to find somebody else who is already in Australia and observing quarantine. Even if he is hopeful of finding somebody, it's easier said than done. However, he will be partnering with Frederik Nielsen at one of the two ATP 250 meets in Melbourne, beginning on February 1.

Another Indian who will feature in that ATP meet is Divij Sharan. He has been in Melbourne for more than a week. He got lucky because the flight he was in did not return any positive tests. "I have been out for close to five hours every day," he says. "That included training for about two hours and 90 minutes of gym work." He will partner with Igor Zelenay at both events, Melbourne and at the Australian Open.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

The Avenger: Poirier floors McGregor

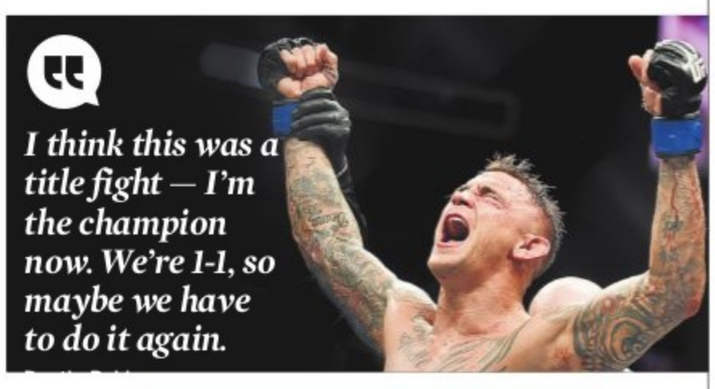
American underdog Dustin Poirier shook up the world of mixed martial arts on Sunday, beating up the legs of Irish superstar Conor McGregor before knocking him out at UFC 257 in Abu Dhabi. Here's a look at the contest...

Leg kicks & finishing punches

Poirier (27-6), who lost in 109 seconds to McGregor in their first fight in 2014, used a lower leg kicking strategy to negate McGregor's stand-up style. The American then launched a sustained barrage of blows to the head culminating in a straight right dropping McGregor to the floor moments before the fight was stopped at 2min 32sec of the second round.

Beating odds

Poirier was ranked second in the flyweight division going into the fight, but still rated a heavy underdog by bookmakers to beat his fourth-ranked opponent, arguably the most famous fighter the sport has seen. McGregor was making a return after a year away from the octagon.



MCGREGOR PONDERS FUTURE

McGregor admitted he was "heartbroken" after the shock defeat left the superstar's future in the cage uncertain. "It's hard to take," said Mcgregor, who was visibly hobbling after the match. "(It's) the highest highs and the lowest lows in this game. I don't know where I'm at, at the minute, to be honest." Fans were left wondering who he'll face next. The loss will scupper any possible rematch with Russian Khabib Nurmagomedov, the unbeaten UFC lightweight champion who has now retired.

EXPRESS READ

Wrestlers Praveen, Rohit take top prize

NOIDA: Haryana's Rohit emerged as the champion in the 65kg category while Delhi's Praveen Chahar took the title in the 86kg event as the men's freestyle national wrestling championships concluded, here on Sunday. In the 70kg, Vishal Kaliraman took the gold after beating Railways teammate Parveen.

Root makes 186 as England post 339/9

GALLE: Skipper Joe Root was run out shy of a second successive double ton Sunday as England scored 339 for nine in reply to Sri Lanka's 381 on day three of the second Test. Root made 186 and stumps were called with England trailing by 42 runs.
Brief scores: SL 381 vs England 339/9 (Root 186, Buttler 55, Embuldeniya 7-132).

ISL

Odisha held by Bengaluru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

ODISHA FC and Bengaluru FC were involved in an entertaining 1-1 draw in the ISL at the Fatorda Stadium on Sunday. Diego Mauricio (8') helped the former take lead, but was cancelled out by Erik Paartalu (82') in a contest, which could have gone either way.

Both teams got their fair share of chances to score a late winner, but neither managed to find the back of the net.This draw means Bengaluru have collected two points from their last seven matches and lie seventh with 14 points. Odisha are 11th with eight.

Odisha goalkeeper Arshdeep Singh deserves a special praise as he came up with huge saves. Even Bengluru's custodian Gurpreet Singh Sandhu impressed.

Despite Bengaluru enjoying possession in the early exchanges, it was Odisha, who scored first with Mauricio netting from close range. In the first half, Arshdeep denied Paartalu and Rahul Bheke a goal with his fine display.

Bengaluru eventually managed to equalise via Paartalu's header in the 82nd minute after a quality corner by Cleiton Silva. With both teams in search of a late winner, Odisha's Daniel Lalhimpuia got a solid chance, but his shot hit the post in the 85th minute. Immediately, at the other end, Sunil Chettri also missed a great chance as his shot went above the bar. Other opportunities at goal also went begging for both teams at the end.

Hyderabad, JFC play goalless draw

Hyderabad FC and Jamshedpur FC played out a goalless draw at the Tilak Maidan. The stalemate saw Hyderabad involved in their third straight draw while Jamshedpur are now winless in four matches.

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd.
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Regd. Office: 43/46, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata 700 024
E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ONLINE BIDDING
NIT No. SCC/DC/OT(Press)/Refit/006/N.ET-1473
Sub: Refit Work for Ship
Due Date: 21 days from date of publication
1. Details will be available in e-procurement portal https://eprocuregrse.co.in; Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/ and GRSE Website http://www.grse.in/index.php/tender.html
2. Any addendum/corrigendum to this tender enquiry will be published in above websites only.
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TUMKUR UNIVERSITY
Vishwavidyanilaya Karyalaya, Tumakuru-572103, Phone: 0816-2254546
No:TU/G&D/Exam/Ans.B/2020-21/3120 & TU/G&D/Ex.V/2020-21/3121 dated: 22.01.2021
Tender Notification (Through E-procurement only)
Tumkur University has invited tender applications for Answer Booklets & Vehicles for rent, through e-procurement portal for the following:

Tender title	Publish date	Last date	Technical & Financial bids opening date
Tender for Printing and Supply of Answer Booklets (Annual Rate Contract)	25.01.2021	24.02.2021	26.02.2021
Tender for Providing Vehicles for Examination/Academic and other purposes	25.01.2021	24.02.2021	26.02.2021

Tender Applications will be received only through e-procurement portal. The details of the tender are notified on the website:- www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in For more information you may contact the office of the following:
Sd/- Registrar, Tumkur University, Tumakuru

CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
P.B. No.8066, Sadashivnagar PO, Bengaluru-560 080
Tele Fax No: 080-2207 2010, E-mail: purchase@cpri.in
Website: http://www.cpri.in
NOTICE INVITING TENDER - CPRIBLR21NIT02 Date : 25-01-2021
Online e-tenders are invited from eligible manufacturers/suppliers for the following in conformation to National / International standards wherever applicable: -
(1) Supply of "Three Phase Coupling Decoupling Network (CDN) and accessories" for the existing EFT/Burst immunity test system (Model: AXOS 5 EFT/Burst) (2) Supply of network components & Laying of OFC backbone from LAN Centre to EMI/EMC building. (3) Automated Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) test Equipment. (4) Supply of AC/DC (bipolar) Corona Ageing Setup on Material Samples. (5) Design, Fabrication, Supply and Installation of a standalone laboratory Model of a Variable Stress DC/AC Ageing Chamber for Ageing of 3 Insulators Together.
Tender documents with detailed specifications, terms & conditions, instructions, and other details be kindly availed/downloaded from CPRI website : http://www.cpri.in and CPRI e-procurement portal: www.tenderwizard.com/CPRI from 25-01-2021 onwards.
CPRI/ADVT/02 /2021 Purchase Authority-CPRI

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institution)
Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 560 011.
Ph: 080-2656 4516/26562500 Telefax: 080-2656 5222
E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com
No: SGITO/e-Tender/ME/21/2020-21 Date: 21.01.2021
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-Procurement)
Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bangalore-11, invites tender from the eligible tenderers through e-Procurement portal of GOK for the following Medical Equipments:
(1) Bio Chemistry Auto Analyser (Buy Back) - 1 No.
(2) Surgical Magnification Loupes with Spectacle Frame System and illumination accessories - 1 No.
(3) Surgical Magnification Loupes with Head band and illumination accessories - 1 No.
(1) The tenderers can download the documents from https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in for Sl.No. (1) to (3) on or after 25-01-2021 and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is 12-02-2021 upto 4:00 p.m.
(2) The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept / reject or cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd/-
Chief Administrative Officer I/c
Tender Inviting Authority
DIPR/DDU/2536/MAA Communications/2020-21
COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

ಹಿರಿಯ ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು-577102
OFFICE OF THE SENIOR GEOLOGIST,
MINES & GEOLOGY DEPT. CHIKKAMAGALURU - 577102
Email: sgchikmagalur@gmail.com Telephone: 08262-220039
No: DMG/SG/DS/E-Tender/2020-21 Date: 25-01-2021
ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರು ಮಾಡಲಾದ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕಲ್ಲು ಗಣಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗಳ ಡ್ರೋಣ್ ಮತ್ತು ಡಿ.ಜಿ.ಪಿ.ಎಸ್. ಸರ್ವೆ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು "Providing Services for conducting Drone and DGPS Survey of Building stone Quarry leased / licensed area and any quarry area identified by the officers of DMG to carry out Boundary fixation and assessment of Volume of Mineral Extracted within and Outside Quarry Area and to record the reduced level (RL's) of quarry lease granted with in Chikkamagaluru District".
ಆರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ/ಕಂಪನಿಯವರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸುವ ಮರು ಪಾವತಿಸಲಾಗದ ಆರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ರೂ. 2.00 ಲಕ್ಷ (ಎರಡು ಲಕ್ಷ ಮಾತ್ರ) ಮರುಪಾವತಿಸುವ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಗೆ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15-02-2021ರೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿ ಜಾಲ್ತಿ ಕಲ್ಲು ಗಣಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ, ಪ್ರಿ-ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಪರತ್ತು, ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು "ಹಿರಿಯ ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಐ.ಡಿ.ಎಸ್.ಜಿ. ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ಎದುರು, ಮರಳಿಸಿದ್ದ ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ನಗರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ" ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
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ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಟಾಸ್ಕ್ ಫೋರ್ಸ್ ಸಮಿತಿ (ಗಣಿ) ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
H.O.: Thycaud P.O., Thiruvananthapuram-695014,
(Tele No. 0471-2945600, 2945646, Fax : 0471-2945647),
E-mail : edrugs@kmscl.kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN : U24233KL2007SGC021616
No.KMSCL/ED/447/2020 Date : 23.01.2021
E-TENDER NOTICE
Online bids are invited from manufactures/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt. of Kerala for the procurement of following categories of drugs / supplies for the year 2021-22.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Category	No. of Items
1.	KMSCL/ED/I&II/RC/2021/002 dt: 23.01.2021	Drugs	390
2.	KMSCL/ED/III-VIII/RC/2021/003 dt: 23.01.2021	Consumables & Surgical items	155
3.	KMSCL/ED/SPL/RC/2021/004 dt: 23.01.2021	Specialty Drugs	197

Pre-tender meeting will be conducted online

	Date	Time
Pre-Tender meeting	02.02.2021	11.00 a.m. onwards
Last date of online uploading of tenders	22.02.2021	upto 05.00 p.m.
Date of technical bid opening	26.02.2021	11.00 a.m. onwards

Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through e-tender portal www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.
Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

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INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through e-Procurement Portal)
BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following works:
Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD (in Rs.)	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	South East-1	BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/PB/2657/ 2020-21, Date: 18.01.2021	1 3,65,650/- 9,150/-	08.02.2021 upto 4:00 pm	09.02.2021 after 5:00 pm
2			2 9,07,655/- 22,700/-		
3			3 8,60,259/- 21,510/-		
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (South East-1)		
4	South East-2	BWSSB/EE(SE-2)/PB/2932/ 2020-21, Date: 18.01.2021	13,35,227/- 33,400/-	01.02.2021 upto 4:00 pm.	03.02.2021 after 4:30 pm
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (South East-2)		
Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009					
5	STP-V.Valley	BWSSB/EE(STP)V.V/PB/1078/ 2020-21, Date: 19.01.2021	9,50,000/- 23,800/-	08.02.2021 upto 5:30 pm.	10.02.2021 after 4:00 pm
6		BWSSB/EE(STP)V.V/PB/1080/ 2020-21, Date: 19.01.2021	5,19,200/- 13,000/-		
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (STP-V.V)		
7	WWM-H	BWSSB/EE(WWM)-H/PB/1270/ 2020-21, Date: 21.01.2021	67.67 Lakhs 1.36 Lakh	01.02.2021 upto 5:30 pm.	03.02.2021 at 12:00 pm
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-H)		
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009					
8	MIS	BWSSB/EMS/TE/MS1/AE/362/ 2020-21/Call-3, Date: 21.01.2021	40,27,060/- 80,541/-	03.02.2021 upto 4:00 pm.	05.02.2021 at 4:00 pm
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (MIS)		

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurment process can be obtained by logging on to https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in for Further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.
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COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

France's government may impose a third lockdown in the coming days if an existing 12-hour-a-day curfew doesn't significantly slow virus infections. An official said that "everything is on the table" but no firm decisions will be made until the effect of the 6 pm-6 am curfew is clear in the coming week.

Immune but still infectious

Vaccinated people may transmit Covid as immunity takes at least 3 weeks to kick in

HEALTH

LONDON: One of England's leading medical officers on Sunday urged the public to continue to follow the strict lockdown rules because any vaccine-related immunity from Covid-19 takes at least three weeks to kick in.

Professor Jonathan Van-Tam, England's Deputy Chief Medical Officer, also warned that there is no clear evidence yet to show that vaccinated people cannot transmit the deadly virus on to others. "Regardless of whether someone has had their vaccination or not, it is vital that everyone follows the national restrictions and public health advice, as protection takes up to three weeks to kick in and we don't yet know the impact of vaccines on transmission," said Van-Tam.

England's Deputy Chief Medical Officer Jonathan Van-Tam

His warning comes as the UK registered another high daily death toll from the virus of 1,348 this weekend, taking the country's total to 97,329. However, he pointed to an additional 32 vaccination sites coming on stream to add to the thousands of venues where the National Health Service (NHS) has been delivering 140 jabs a minute, taking the vaccinated total to over 5.8 million.

"The vaccine is rightly something to celebrate ' let's stay patient, stay at home and support the NHS as it continues to roll out the vaccine," he said.

A Living Museum where the BBC filmed a hit drama series 'Peaky Blinders' based on the notorious Birmingham gang in the 1920s is among the new vaccine sites. A former IKEA store at the Westfield shopping centre in Stratford, London, the Francis Crick Institute, which is also in the UK capital, the Nightingale Hospital in Sunderland and the Blackpool Winter Gardens will also be new vaccination centres.

The latest openings mean there will be a network of almost 50 across the country, adding to options alongside hospitals, pharmacies and general practice (GP) surgeries. Through the vaccines delivery plan, we have made outstanding progress in vaccinating our NHS and care staff and the most vulnerable people in society," said UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock.

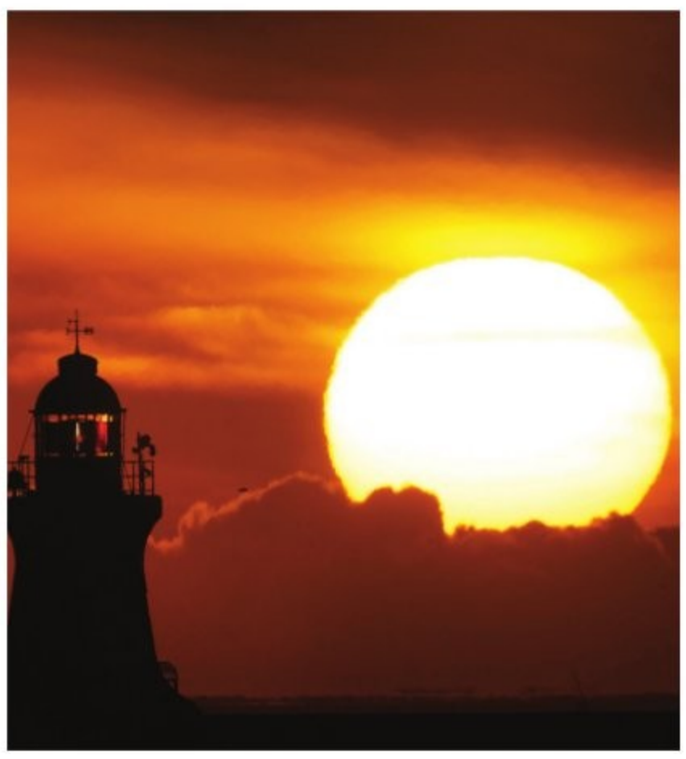
New cluster hits north China

HEALTH

BEIJING: A Chinese city has brought 2,600 temporary treatment rooms online as the country's north battles new clusters of coronavirus.

The single-occupancy rooms in the city of Nangong in Hebei province just outside Beijing are each equipped with their own heaters, toilets, showers and other amenities, the official *Xinhua News Agency* reported. Special attention has been paid to Hebei because of its proximity to the capital and the province has locked down large areas to prevent further spread of the virus.

The provincial capital Shijiazhung and the city of Xingtai, which encompasses Nangong, have been largely sealed off from the rest of the country. Community isolation and large-scale testing have also been enforced.



RISE AND SHINE

The Sun rises over South Shields lighthouse on the northeast coast of England | AP

FACT OF THE MATTER

Dogs trained to sniff out Covid

PETS

In a dog training centre built inside a shipping container located in a Czech mountain village, Renda, Cap and Laky are being put to the test. They sniff at six vessels, each containing a piece of cloth with scent from patients with Covid-19, negative donors, or fake samples. The team of dog trainers are working in their own time and report a 95 per cent success rate in Covid-19 detection in samples of human scent. "The study is designed to verify dogs' ability to detect Covid-19 and generate a method enabling the use of trained dogs in combatting the pandemic," project head Gustav Hotovy told *AFP*.

Heavy air pollution alert

CLIMATE

China's capital Beijing has issued a yellow alert for heavy air pollution which took effect from Sunday, prompting officials to take a series of steps. Measures will be taken from Sunday, including the suspension of a number of outdoor construction operations, and halting or restricting production by manufacturing companies, the air pollution emergency response office said. The city's air quality is expected to gradually improve on Tuesday, *Xinhua* reported. Under four-tier warning system for air pollution, red is the most severe followed by orange, yellow and blue.

Spain's virus surge hits mental health of frontline workers

HEALTH

BARCELONA: The unrelenting increase in Covid-19 infections in Spain following the holiday season is again straining hospitals, threatening the mental health of doctors and nurses who've been at the forefront of the pandemic for a year.

In Hospital del Mar, the critical care capacity has more than doubled and is nearly full, with 80 per cent of ICU beds occupied by coronavirus patients. "There are young people of 20-something-years-old and older people of 80-years-old, all the age groups," said Dr. Joan Ramon Masclans, who heads the ICU. "This is difficult, and it is one patient after another."

Even though authorities allowed gatherings of up to 10 people for Christmas and New Year celebrations, Masclans chose not to join his family and spent the holidays at home with his partner. "We did it to preserve our health and the health of others. And when you see that this isn't being done (by others) it causes significant anger, added to the fatigue," he said. A study released this month by Hospital del Mar looking at the impact of the spring's Covid-19 surge on more than 9,000 health workers across Spain found that at least 28% suffered major depression. That is six times higher than the rate in the general population before the pandemic, said Dr. Jordi Alonso.

In addition, the study found that nearly half of participants had a high risk of anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, panic attacks or substance- and alcohol-abuse problems.

Spanish health care workers are far from the only ones to have suffered psychologically from the pandemic. In China, the levels of mental disorders among doctors and nurses were even higher, with 50% reporting depression, 45% reporting anxiety and 34% reporting insomnia, according to the World Health Organization.

In the UK, a survey released last week by the Royal College of Physicians found that 64% of doctors reported feeling tired. One in four sought out mental health support.

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Leading Dairy brand Thirumala has launched its new premium offering Thirumala White Gold — Pure Buffalo milk & curd. Thirumala White Gold is made with 100% pure buffalo milk which gives a thick, creamy milk & curd naturally rich in protein, vitamins & minerals.

Thirumala White Gold Buffalo milk 500ml is priced at Rs 35 and White Gold Buffalo Curd is priced at Rs 15 for 100g pouch and Rs 40 for 500g pouch. Thirumala White Gold milk has 6% FAT and 9% SNF & the curd has 5% FAT & 10% SNF. Advt

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DAY'S DIARY

Egypt uprising

On this day in 2011, thousands gathered in Cairo and several other Egyptian cities to demonstrate against poverty and political repression

MUBARAK STEPS DOWN

The uprisings began in 2010 in several Arab countries. The 2011 uprising forced one of Egypt's longest-serving and most influential leaders, President Hosni Mubarak, to resign from power

TWITTER BLOCKED

These were the first protests on such a large scale to be seen in Egypt since the 1970s. The government responded by blocking Twitter, which was being used by organisers to coordinate protests

A VICTORY

Shouts of "God is great" erupted from Tahrir Square at twilight as vice president and longtime intelligence chief, Omar Suleiman, announced that Mubarak had passed all authority to a council of military leaders

Krishna to share screen space with Puneeth

PG 4

Beat Route

Going beyond its local followers, Kannada rap is now making waves in the rapping world thanks to the digital boom and viewers' growing interest in regional music

MONIKA MONALISA

RAPPING IT UP

There is no stopping rapper Gubbi. It was not too long ago that the Kannada rapper was out with his song *Chills*. He is back again with yet another fun song *Chithaal Pathaal*, which features Raghu Vine. Ask Gubbi about the back-to-back releases, and he says that the lockdown was a break for him. "I used the lockdown to write most of the songs I am releasing now," says Gubbi, whose latest song *Chithaal Pathaal* has got close to 3 lakh views on YoutTube. With its catchy tune and funky beats, the song, which is completely in Kannada, has also been loved by non-Kannada speakers, says Gubbi. If you are still wondering what the catchphrase *Chithaal Pathaal* means, Gubbi explains, "It's an exclamatory phrase in Kannada, which can be used in a good and bad situation."

IT'S been a busy time for Kannada rappers. While Gubbi recently released his rap *Chitaal Pathaal*, in collaboration with rapper Raghu Vine, Vighnesh Shivanand, aka, Brodha V, whose last hit songs were *Vainko* and *Flex*, is already working on a project. These are a few names to mention but Kannada rap is now making its way in the rapping world and reaching an audience beyond its local followers.

Brodha V, who has been rapping professionally since 2008, says the popularity of the movie *Gully Boy,* had put the spotlight on the rap scene. "Of course, movies have a role to play, which is the reason for the interest toward hip-hop and rap. But before that, Bengaluru had always been a multi-cultural place where English was mostly the preferred language. The movie brought in a little more interest in Kannada rap," says Brodha, adding that this also pushed rappers to come up with better content.

Apart from that, the digital boom also helped break language barriers. "YouTube and social media play an important role since people follow rappers directly," says Brodha, adding that when it comes to monetising content, it takes time and there is no short cut.

> **Of course, movies have a role to play, which is the reason for the interest toward hip-hop and rap. But before that, Bengaluru had always been a multi-cultural place where English was mostly the preferred language**
>
> Brodha V, rapper

Agrees Gubbi, adding that it's mostly said that there is something about regional language that creates the maximum impact through lyrics. "Sometimes, as an artiste, the pride of doing something in your mother tongue and having people connect to the lyrics, also matters," says Madhura Gowda, aka EmmJee, who is one of the few women rappers from Bengaluru. However, rapping in regional languages comes with some restrictions. "Most of my followers are young adults, so I have to take care of the language. But that also works for me, because I use lot of proverbs in my raps, which makes it sound funny," says Gubbi.

While rapping in regional languages may be picking up swiftly, Bollywood and English still have a larger audience base. Tony Sebastian, aka Stony Psyko, who is a Mumbai-based Tamil rapper, agrees. However, he mentions that having been in the industry for close to 10 years, he has seen the fan following of Kannada rapping scene increase by the year. "Earlier, during any rapping event, there were very few names like Gubbi, Brodha V, MC Bijju who used to be from Bengaluru, but now, so many people are trying their hands at Kannada rapping. Of course, it still has a long way to go in comparison to Hindi, English or Tamil, but the rapping scene is picking up real fast," says Sebastian.

Tony Sebastian, Madhura Gowda

Craft AT THE heart

Over 70 artisans from 37 districts in Karnataka and other states like Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are showcasing indigenous products at the market.| MEGHANA SASTRY

EXPRESS FEATURES

There's no doubt that the artisans and craftsmen have been severely affected by the pandemic. Now, the ongoing Grameena Habba 2021 has given them a ray of hope with business being brisk. Taking place at Mantri Mall, the flea market, supported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), has encouraged rural artisans to participate in the exhibition to create awareness about their products among urban consumers and the B2B market.

According to Suresh, a craftsperson who has come to Bengaluru from Chhattisgarh along with his brother, bringing sarees, dress material and dupattas, the response is more than encouraging. "Bengalureans seem to be going in for khadi silks in particular," he says. Kosa silk, famous in the region he hails from, flew off the shelf with the five sarees he brought being picked up at one go. "We had expected sales to be satisfactory. But even then, the brisk business has taken us by surprise," he adds.

Over 70 artisans from 37 districts in Karnataka and other states like Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are showcasing indigenous products at the market. The money earned through sales go directly to the artist. Among the products available at competitive prices are handwoven sarees, dress materials, organic food products, jewellery, jute bags and accessories, home decor, agro-products, food products, toys and more items from rural India.

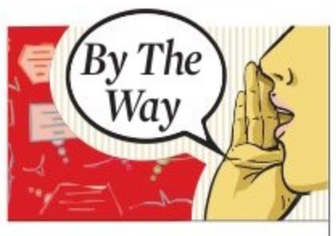
Among the range on sale from Karnataka, you can find Molakalmuru sarees; Mysuru's rosewood artwork; Gadag's lambani wear, embroidery, pendants, and jewellery; Channapatna dolls, and other items like bamboo fibre products, organic food, and brass artefacts.

"With much emphasis on vocal for local, people are coming forward to purchase indigenous products. Things are slightly subdued this year in comparison to previous years, but even then visitors are quite keen to take a look at the offerings. It's great to see this response from Bengalureans," says Niraj Kumar Verma, chief general manager of the bank.

The annual exhibition-cum-sale is being held till Jan. 26 at Mantri Square Mall, Malleswaram.

> **With much emphasis on vocal for local, people are coming forward to purchase indigenous products. Visitors are quite keen to take a look at the offerings**
>
> Niraj Kumar Verma, chief general manager, NABARD

CITY READ



Good read

Speaking of books, looks like Consul General of Israel to South India Jonathan Zadka has been reading the Hebrew version of renowned author Vivek Shanbhag's *Ghachar Ghochar*. Zadka shared on image of the book with the caption, "I was lucky enough to recieve a dedicated #Hebrew translated copy of the wonderful title '*Ghachar Ghochar*' from the renowned author Vivek Shanbhag himself. Originally of course in #Kannada. Couldn't put it down finishing it in a single evening." (sic).

Blood donation camp organised

Stressed Assets Resolution Group (SARG) of State Bank of India, the Bengaluru branches ,conducted a blood donation camp on Jan. 22. It was organised on St Mark's Road in association with the Indian Red Cross Society. The camp was inaugurated by Abhijit Majumder, chief general manger, SBI, Bengaluru Circle. As many as 204 blood donors registered their names on the occasion and about 140 units of blood were collected.

College holds 10th annual convocation

Jain (deemed-to-be university) conducted their first-ever virtual convocation for the class of 2020 on January 23. Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, founder and chairman of Narayana Health, was the chief guest for the ceremony and delivered the convocation address. Dr. Chenraj Roychand, chancellor, presided over the convocation ceremony. Out of 5,098 students, the university presented 78 gold medallists and 198 rank holders from Bachelor, Master, MPhil, and Ph.D. Degrees. "As we reflect on the past year, we also celebrate all that we accomplished by working together. I have always believed that 24 hours a day can be divided into three parts. 8 hours for rest, 8 hours for personal life, but if the remaining 8 hours are spent focusing on what you wish to achieve, then you are on the right track. Follow your passion even though the route may seem tough. Be the beacon of hope, as hope comes with the possibility of something better," Roychand said.

ART FROM SCRAP

The staff of Yeswanthpur railway station convert an area dumped with scrap into an art showcase, featuring figurines of a train examiner, welder, track maintainer; murals and more

EXPRESS FEATURES

If you have recently visited Yeshvantpur Railway Station, you would have been treated to a brief introduction to the rich heritage of Karnataka. A few parts of the railway station where scrap of locomotives were being stored, have now been converted into a mural art showcase.

The murals showcasing the heritage of Karnataka even caught the attention of Railway Minister Piyush Goyal who took to Twitter to appreciate the effort. Posting some of the pictures, he said, "Celebrating & promoting the rich cultural heritage of Karnataka by making the best out of waste. Indian Railways team skillfully utilised scrap to depict the glorious monuments of the State & created beautiful 3D paintings on boulders at Kempegowda Heritage Garden" (sic).

Vikas Gurwani, coaching depot officer, Yeswanthpur, says the idea was to promote five 'Ss'– sorting, setting in order, shining, standardisation and sustaintance. "This project comes under the sustainability initiative. The place where we have made the murals was where metal scraps were kept. We got it cleaned and created murals which speak about the flora and fauna of our state," says Guwani. There are four murals showcasing Mysuru, Aihole-Badami, Belur-Halebidu and Kempegowda, the founder of Bengaluru.

Artworks made out of metal scraps and boulders, initiated by railway staff of Yeshvantpur railway station

Apart from that, it also showcases a 'Make in India' lion made from metal scrap. "We used metal springs and screws along with the scrap to create the figure of a lion. We also have a statue of Swami Vivekananda and humanoids clad with personal protective equipments, to promote safety protocols," says Gurwani, adding that CP Shridhar, senior section engineer of the depot, is the in-house craftsman who actually turned the scrap around. The entire project took close to one month to complete. While the murals are outside the station, the statues and metal scrap art work are within the premises. They can be viewed by the public.

STAYING FIT

Help your loved ones achieve their New Year fitness resolutions with gifting options from Boldfit. They have on offer a range of fitness gears, accessories and nutritional supplements. **Where:** boldfit.in

SUNDAY SPECIAL

Lazy Suzy now has a weekend special menu every two weeks. The menu includes Mexican Egg Rancheros, cucumber, cream cheese and rucola on sunflower seed rye bagel, wild mushroom risotto and more. **Where:** Lazy Suzy, Indiranagar **When:** Every Sunday

TASTE OF INDIA

Try out this special Republic Day brunch which has a little of everything from different cities of India. **Where:** JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru **When:** Jan. 26, 12.30pm- 3.30pm

YUMMY IN THE TUMMY

Making your Sunday yummy with the Dineout SteppinOut Food Festival. From ooeygooey brownies to smokin' hot kebabs and creamy pastas, there is something for every taste preference. **Where:** UB City **When:** Jan 31, noon onwards

Check out Realm of Nature, a group art show by 12 artists from all over India. At Art Houz, Palace Road, till Feb. 13

Republic Day special

STS India, a city-based cultural organisation, is hosting a virtual celebration for Republic Day. The event will feature online team games, puzzle solving, quiz, drawing competition, singing of patriotic songs and more such amazing activities. **For details:** WhatsApp 9538952052

Street food festival

Curated by chefs Nikhil Baveja and Cyrus Irani, the menu will offer street food dishes from Lucknow, Delhi and Punjab. Where: Hard Rock Cafe, St Marks Road and Whitefield When: All month

Colours of nature

Attend this art show that presents art works by students of Swar Sangam, Kolkata. Titled Hues, it is their attempt to recreate the colours inspired by nature. When: Till Jan. 30 Where: MKF Museum of Art, Lavelle Road

For the love of tea

VAHDAM India will have a big Valentine's Day sale from February 4 to February 14. This Valentine's Day, give a gift of good health, wellness and strong immunity to your loved ones. VAHDAM India offers premium, high quality teas sourced directly from farms and blended with 100% natural, native Indian spices, herbs and other ingredients. **Available at:** www.vahdamteas.in

Vibrant designs

This season, Ethnicity brings their joyous collection, Umang, a vibrant assortment of styles that reflect the eternal optimism and spiritedness of human race. The Umang collection takes inspiration from the mesmerising embroideries from different realms of our country, bringing alive a zest synonymous with the spirit of Indian festivals. **Available at:** Ethnicity stores

Virtual art show

InKo Centre's virtual gallery Prism presents A Porous Membrane, a specially commissioned virtual exhibition from January 29 to February 28. It will be launched at 6 pm. **View the exhibition on:** www.inkocentre.org/Virtual_Connect_Infotainment.html

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

DRY MASALA CHUTNEY DAL

INGREDIENTS

- **Chilli powder:** 2 tbsp ■ **Aamchur:** 2 tbsp
- **Salt:** to taste ■ **Chutney dal:** 300 gm

METHOD

- Make a thick paste of all the powders with water.
- Coat the dal evenly with the paste.
- Microwave for five minutes or till it becomes crisp (Keep checking and toss every two minutes).
- Can try the same with almond or cashew.

— Ekta Ahuja, Bengaluru

SOUND BOARD

THINK FAST, TALK SMART

Communication is critical to success in business and in life. Join Matt Abrahams, a lecturer of Strategic Communication at Stanford Graduate School of Business, as he sits down with experts in the field to discuss real-world challenges.
- On Apple Podcasts

START-UP STORIES

Jonathan Moules talks to entrepreneurs about building successful brands, giving birth during a funding round, and rebuilding a reputation in the wake of bankruptcy. Real stories from those who've done it, from idea to exit.
- On Spotify

THE LIVELY PODCAST: NO MAKEUP NEEDED

This is a show for women with wild hearts and boss brains, interested in keeping it real about what it means to build a business, lean into the community, juggle it all, and make a solid impact along the way.
- On Apple Podcasts

SHE SAYS SHE'S FINE

She Says She's Fine is a women's health podcast hosted by popular gynaecologist, Dr. Munjaal Kapadia, whose mission is to bust the shackles around the patient-doctor hierarchy, and create a friendly, warm environment for his patients to be treated.
- On Stitcher

REVISIONIST HISTORY

Revisionist History is Malcolm Gladwell's journey through the overlooked and the misunderstood. Every episode re-examines something from the past—an event, a person, an idea, even a song—and asks whether we got it right the first time.
- On Spotify

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

KHUSHI KHUSHIYAGI

Raj, who belongs to an affluent family, meets Priya at an event and is spellbound by her beauty. He loses her number, which leads to a string of confusions.
- Cast: Ganesh, Amulya, Nandini Rai

MR AIRAVATA

Airavata, a farmer who was wronged by a few corrupt police officers, decides to take matters into his own hands and joins the police force through wrong means.
- Cast: Darshan, Urvashi Rautela, Prakash Raj

JAANU

Siddarth helps Rukmini reach home when she runs out of money on a trip. Rukmini's family attack Siddarth, but welcome him after learning the truth. Both fall in love, but a surprise awaits them.
- Cast: Yash, Deepa Sannidhi, Rangayana Raghu

ANNANAGAR MUDHAL THERU

Sivaraman, a desperate unemployed youth, disguises himself as a Gorkha and takes up the job of a watchman. However, he is surprised when his childhood sweetheart moves into the colony he works in.
- Cast: Radha, Ambika, Janagaraj, Sathyaraj

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 USING YOUR VOICE IS A POLITICAL CHOICE BY AMANDA GORMAN

In this fierce talk and performance, National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman explains why poetry is inherently political, pays homage to her honorary ancestors and stresses the value of speaking out despite your fears.

2 JIM SIMONS: THE MATHEMATICIAN WHO CRACKED WALL STREET

Jim Simons was a mathematician and cryptographer who realised: the complex math he used to break codes could help explain patterns in the world of finance. Billions later, he's working to support the next generation of math teachers and scholars. TED's Chris Anderson sits down with Simons to talk about his extraordinary life in numbers.

3 TRY SOMETHING NEW FOR 30 DAYS BY MATT CUTTS

Is there something you've always meant to do, wanted to do, but just ... haven't? Matt Cutts suggests: Try it for 30 days. This short, lighthearted talk offers a neat way to think about setting and achieving goals.

4 HOW TO USE FAMILY DINNER TO TEACH POLITICS BY HAJER SHARIEF

Everyone should participate in decision-making and politics — and it starts at home, says activist Hajer Sharief. She says parents can teach their children about political agency by giving them a say in how their households are run, in the form of candid family meetings where everyone can express their opinions, negotiate and compromise.

5 WHAT MAKES MUSCLES GROW BY JEFFREY SIEGEL

We have over 600 muscles in our bodies. Your muscles also need your constant attention, because the way you treat them determines whether they will wither or grow. Jeffrey Siegel illustrates how a good mix of sleep, nutrition and exercise keep your muscles big and strong.

FIT BIT

PADANGUSTHASANA

(TOE STAND POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'pada' means 'foot', 'angustha' means 'toe' and 'asana' means 'pose'. It is a demanding balance pose, which improves focus while calming your mind. This is the twelfth posture in Bikram Yoga and is also practised in challenging Vinyasa Yoga classes. It requires balance, stability and flexibility in the hips and lower body, and hence can be a difficult posture for beginners. It may be necessary to practise other standing balances and hip-opening postures before this pose. Standing half lotus is often considered a preliminary pose to toe stand. If half lotus pose is not possible, a modification can be practised with the knees together balancing on both feet.

STEPS

- Start from tree pose (Bikram's tree pose) with the foot outside hip or as high as possible, and the sole of the foot facing up.
- Now, bring your hands in front of the chest in Namaskar or Anjali Mudra. Look down on one point at the floor.
- Then fold your upper body down from hips over the leg and put your fingertips on the floor.
- Slowly bend your knee to lower your hips and sit on your heel.
- At this stage, bring your hands to both sides of the floor. Stretch your spine up, hips up and balance on your fingertips.
- When both knees are parallel to the floor, contract your abdomen and bring palms together in Namaskar or Anjali Mudra.
- Then lift your hips up from the heel and balance there.
- Now, you can come back the exact opposite way you went down.

BENEFITS

- If you regularly practise this pose, it will help you to strengthen your knees, ankles and feet.
- Helps improve balance.
- One of the best poses that helps stretch the quads.
- Useful in helping to work on concentration.

LIMITATIONS

- When you perform this pose, you should be very careful with the knees in the beginning.
- Don't practise this pose if you have had a recent or chronic knee, ankle, or hip injury.
- Always fold from the hip with your leg straight and bend the knee when fingertips are touching the floor.

— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

AYANA (Kannada)

With his carefree bachelor days behind him, a young entrepreneur's ambitions for adulthood come with some painful personal and professional decisions.

Cast: Deepak Subramanya, Apoorva Soma, Ramesh Bhat
- Watch on: Netflix

THE LAST COLOR (Hindi)

A young tight-rope walker and a widow named Noor yearn to play with colours during Holi, but Noor and the other widows are held back by tradition.

Cast: Neena Gupta, Aqsa Siddiqui, Neha Garg, Rajeswar Khanna
- Watch on: Amazon Prime

TRIBHANGA (Hindi)

When her estranged mother falls into a coma, a self-made single mother grapples with regret and resentment while reflecting on their strained relationship.

Cast: Kajol, Kunaal Roy Kapur, Tanvi Azmi
- Watch on: Netflix

AAMAYUM MUYALUM (Malayalam)

After a lottery ticket salesman learns that one of his customers has won ` 5 crores, he tries to get back the ticket. Unfortunately, he finds the customer dead and has to lie to protect himself.

Cast: Jayasurya, Innocent, Pia Bajpiee, Anoop Menon, Nedumudi Venu
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

IS LOVE ENOUGH SIR (Hindi)

An optimistic and determined young woman from a remote village starts her new job as a live-in maid for the cynical son of a wealthy family. They eventually fall in love, but find their relationship forbidden.

Cast: Tillotama Shome, Vivek Gomber, Geetanjali Kulkarni, Rahul Vohra
- Watch on: Netflix

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

ADI NUVVE (Telugu)

Ravi's only aim was to study hard and fulfil his father's dream of sending him to the US. It all changes when he sees Samira. He misses his visa interview and pursues her. But, she loves someone else.

Cast: Aksha Pardasany, K Viswanath, Krishna Chaitanya
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

IIT KRISHNAMURTHY (Kannada)

Krishnamurthy, an IIT-Bombay student comes to Hyderabad and gets to know that his uncle is missing. And he sets out to find him

Cast: Prudhvi Dandamudi, Maira Doshi, Veera Bhadram
- Watch on: Amazon Prime

FOREIGN

OUTSIDE THE WIRE (English)

In the near future, a drone pilot sent into a war zone finds himself paired up with a top-secret android officer on a mission to stop a nuclear attack.

Cast: Anthony Mackie, Damson Idris, Emily Beecham, Michael Kelly, Pilou Asbæk
- Watch on: Netflix

ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI (English)

On the night of Feb. 25, 1964, in Miami, Cassius Clay joins Jim Brown, Sam Cooke and Malcom X, and they discuss the responsibility of being successful black men during the civil rights movement.

Cast: Leslie Odom Jr., Kingsley Ben-Adir, Eli Goree, Aldis Hodge
- Watch on: Amazon Prime

BRIDGERTON (Series, English)

During the Regency era in England, eight close-knit siblings of the powerful Bridgerton family attempt to find love.

Cast: Regé-Jean Page, Phoebe Dynevor, Nicola Coughlan, Jonathan Bailey, Julie Andrews
- Watch on: Netflix

LUPIN (Series, French)

A retelling of the classic French story about Arsène Lupin, the world-famous gentleman thief and master of disguise.

Cast: Omar Sy, Ludivine Sagnier, Shirine Boutella, Clotilde Hesme, Nicole Garcia
- Watch on: Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION

Netflix: ₹ 199 per month
Amazon Prime: ₹ 129 per month
Disney+Hotstar: ₹ 399 per year

Defining moments

PAIRED WITH PANACHE
Anuja Pandey

THE year 2021 brings with it a fresh breeze of optimism coupled with some pathbreaking trends that will rule the roost. These avant-garde trends speak loudly about a paradigm shift in lifestyle, bringing forth a new perspective towards luxury while breaking the monotony of uniformity.

Athflow fashion

Speaking of fashion, athflow is the new athleisure, where the latter meets elegance and fluidity. So whether you do yoga or want to exude some cool vibes while lounging about or watching Emily in Paris, athflow is the easy-breezy choice. It's for the multitasking modern woman, and could include empowering office wear or something chic enough to promenade around fashionable lanes.

Think of flowy jumpsuits, wide-legged pants, oversized boyfriend tees or sweatshirts. It could be linen shirts or silk trousers. Athflow replaces formal looks with a more casual and cuddled look. This is not athletic wear but 'go-to' loungewear. It's the idea of feeling confident and fabulous in smart clothing that makes everyday goals achievable. "At Enamor, our research showed that the modern Indian woman is juggling several roles at a time. She is busy and always on the move. Hence, she needs apparel that is mindful, comfortable and can help her transition seamlessly from workouts to workwear, to casual outings, coffee with friends, a trip to the mall or dinner," says Sandra Daniels, VP marketing, Enamor.

Skinimalism

Skinimalism is the trend to watch for when it comes to skin and makeup. This is like evading the 12-step skin regimen and reducing it to a four-step one. It's going minimalistic while you dab your makeup, as against the caked look with multiple layers. The focus is on how to have a natural, dewy look that suits online conferences and parties. The sustainable natural skin care regime, and the effortlessly clean look that comes with green eating is in fashion. Now, it's your choice if you really acquire it, achieve it or simply create it with a filter. A bit of sunshine on your face coupled with a lovely smile, yes, is the new glam diva.

Nomading, not globetrotting

Nomading is the predicted trend for 2021 instead of globetrotting. Nature is therapeutic and this year will see people turn to it for holistic wellness. People will go nature camping, fishing and trekking. Buckle up and switch on some country music, because it's time to soak in our own local culture.

Japandi

Japandi is the new minimalistic decor inspired by Japanese and Scandinavian elements, just as the name suggests. It's a fusion of both, with muted neutral shades balanced by interesting colour palette to keep it far from boring. The calming effect of this technique introduces the much-needed balance we require in these times for overall wellness. Natural fibres and sustainable stuff, plants inside home, bamboos, paper and clean lines are key features of this trend.

Wellness as you zzz...

Catch up on your nap! Inculcate a few habits before you hit the bed to stay healthy. Listen to meditative music, or if you choose, go ahead and consult a feng shui expert to create zen energy. Light candles, salt lamps, and do some simple bedtime chants to stay calm. The buzz word is wellness of body and mind with effort on achieving a state of equilibrium. Multifunctionality, minimalism and comfort are key to tap some positive energy. So are you ready for some swanky trend-setting this year?

(The writer is a social media influencer)

THE FILL-GOOD FACTOR

Making the most of house parties and brunches, Bengalureans are sipping and swirling fine spirits, prompting alcohol brands to cash in on the rising demand

VIDYA IYENGAR

TOASTING with extra dry sparkling wine from a gold-plated bottle, malts sourced from Finland, Britain and Germany, and bottled gin and tonic... The pandemic has definitely brought about changes in routines and work life, and Bengalureans are increasingly turning towards unwinding with a glass in hand. Many of them are, in fact, now preferring a premium quality imported beverage.

"Spending time with friends and family is now key and this is enjoyed with quality beverage. Young Bengalureans are fairly conscious of what they consume after work," says Roshni K Hemdev, managing director - Business, Ciro Trade, importers of alcoholic beverages. "A 500 ml can of our beer has 220 calories. It has no added sugar, rice or maize. It is made using only wheat, barley, hops and water. With health concerns playing a key role, the youth now prefer low-calorie beer, and quality red, white and sparkling wines, while gin is also seeing an increase. With night-outs at restobars turning into brunch at open-air venues, sparkling wine and prosecco clearly would be a winner," says Hemdev, adding that the beverages are priced between ₹300 and ₹5,400.

Representational picture

Bottled brews seem to be the flavour of the season, with Latambarcem Brewers (offering bespoke bottled craft beer MAKA di) and Salud Beverages (premixed gin & tonic in a bottle) heading that way. "We are catering to the younger generation at house and pool parties, as well as the growing segment of Sunday brunch-goers," says Ajay Shetty, founder-director, Salud Beverages. "For the health conscious millennial, it contains natural flavours with natural sugars with an abv of 6%. It's the perfect way to unwind," he adds.

Thrivikram Nikam, Joint MD, Amrut

Another contributing factor to this mushrooming of launches, according to Thrivikram Nikam, joint MD, Amrut, is that unlike most markets in India, label registration in Karnataka is open throughout the year, which becomes encouraging for a manufacturer. "We have just launched the Nilgiris gin that is crafted with botanicals foraged from this mountain range and infused with paan," he says.

An educated and receptive market to alcohol brands across genres and segments, the city provides a "must-enter space" for any serious alcohol brand, stresses Aditya Ishan Varshnei, CEO, Latambarcem Brewers. "The name of the game is innovation, and while it is understandable that those in the age group of 20-35 years would be most receptive to new craft beers, I find that the acceptance levels span across higher age groups as well. We are aware that home consumption of alcohol has grown due to the pandemic and therefore the key to success will be the availability of the brand throughout the city for home consumption," he says, pointing out that beer is quite clearly the dominant alco-beverage among Bengalureans. "There is also a great demand for probiotic wellness beverages and out-of-the-box drinks in the non-alcoholic space and this is where our probiotic 'anytime anywhere' kombucha brand Borecha comes in," he says.

The challenge, for Varshnei, lies in introducing new variants to fit in a vibrant space like Bengaluru, while Hemdev points to too many options. "This is where our team is working on educating the customers about what we are offering and what it pairs well with. Knowledge is key and Bengalureans are open to learning," she says. Agrees Nikam, who finds that in most Indian markets, consumers lean towards established names. "However, I feel this is slowly changing, and people are open to trying new labels and offerings," he says.

Spending time with friends and family is now key and this is enjoyed with quality beverage. Young Bengalureans are fairly conscious of what they consume after work
Roshni K Hemdev, MD, Business, Ciro Trade

What are we waiting for

Last week, we took a look at some of the video games coming out in 2021 that we're excited about; this week, it's all about the board games. Here are the upcoming releases that we can't wait to get our hands on.

PLAY ON
Arjun Sukumaran

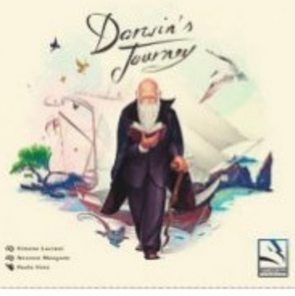
(Arjun is a gamer, book lover and an all-round renaissance man)

Canvas

Canvas is a simply beautiful card game about layering transparent cards over each other to create pieces of art. The gameplay looks engaging, and this looks set to be one of the loveliest games in my collection.

Darwin's Journey

As I type this, this is still live on Kickstarter and doing very well indeed. No surprise, that, because it's from a reputed designer and publisher team and it looks simply magnificent — so many crunchy decisions, and it's probably the most complex game on this list.



Foundations of Rome

If you take a look at the gargantuan box that Foundations of Rome comes in or its host of wonderfully detailed miniature buildings, it'd be easy to dismiss it as a typical style-over-substance Kickstarter. However, there's a really sharp game at the core of it and the striking presentation just ensures more people will get to experience it.

Dune: Imperium

Okay, this is a bit of a cheat because this technically came out in 2020. Firstly, however, 2021 will be the year I get to play it; and secondly, this is Dune, so all bets are off. I love the book, I'm cautiously excited for the movie and the game's been getting rave reviews so I can't wait to try it.

Nanga Parbat

Nanga Parbat is a two-player game from designer extraordinaire Steve Finn, which casts players as Sherpas establishing base camps on the titular mountain while also trapping game. It's a fiendishly clever duel, where every move you make opens up opportunities for your opponent.

Streets

Streets is....well, if anything, it's almost too charming and pleasant! Picking up right where they left off with Villagers, Sinister Fish Games looks like they might just make lightning strike twice with this clever tile-layer.

Perseverance: Castaway Chronicles

The combination of designer David Turczi and publisher Mindclash Games has already given us Anachrony, which happens to be my favourite game. Little wonder then that I'm on tenterhooks for Perseverance, which contains the first two 'games' in what will be an eventual four-game campaign series.

THE PATHLESS: LIGHT OR NOT?

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

I get asked quite frequently for suggestions to play "Light games". What is a light game? If light is correlated to lesser focus on combat, then The Pathless is a light game. But in the place of hack and slash action, it works in focused movements —flights, jumps, and archery. It combines the game dance with puzzles. Does that make it less straightforward than an unprepared dash and attack? The Pathless could be a light game. That is, if light refers to a story that isn't filled with dialogues and a universe that isn't packed with too many details. Yes, the archer and the falcon don't talk to each other. But they communicate seamlessly, and somehow convey their struggles to you as well. Archer glides through grass, and suddenly, without warning — jumps — but falcon carries them without a moments delay, allowing them to soar across a chasm separating two lands. Archer feels light. Player feels light. The Pathless is probably a light game.

If 'light' means easy — then I'm unsure. The game doesn't give us the conventional main mission goals. There isn't a map to guide us through the massive open lands of wherever this game is set. You feel lost, but comfortably lost. Like a toddler, curious about the world, and content with digging around dirt. You are at peace, shooting random arrows and gliding across the lands in The Pathless without a goal in sight. In the process of exploring, you could just happen across the main mission, finish it, and go back to exploring. Gliding and shooting, as if all you were meant to do in this game was to shoot the arrows at the red diamonds, that sound like Deepavali whistle rockets.

Perhaps I should take the word 'light' literally. In that case, if The Pathless wasn't a light game, then it wouldn't have been released across consoles of different generations at the same time. Available for the PS5 and the iOS (and everything in between)? Graphics requirements and storage space are as minimal as decent games go for these days.

SMARTADS

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Krishna

PUNEETH RAJKUMAR, KRISHNA TO STAR IN

NAGENDRA PRASAD'S DIRECTORIAL DEBUT

The actor-choreographer's first venture as a director will star the *Love Mocktail* actor as the hero, and the Power Star in a pivotal role

Nagendra Prasad

A SHARADHAA

ACTOR-choreographer Nagendra Prasad is bringing together an interesting cast for his directorial debut. The film is inspired by the Tamil movie, *Oh My Kadavule*, and a strong buzz that has been doing the rounds is that the fantasy romantic drama will have *Love Mocktail* hero Krishna playing the lead, and that he will share screen space with Puneeth Rajkumar for the first time in this project.

The original Tamil film was helmed by Ashwath Marimuthu, and starred Ashok Selvan and Ritika Singh, while Vijay Sethupathi was seen in an extended cameo appearance.

The director had earlier told *CE* that he has made a lot of changes in the Kannada version of *Oh My Kadavule*. Nagendra Prasad was keen to have Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar play a pivotal role in his directorial debut, and the *Yuvarathnaa* and *James* hero is said to have given a green signal now. However, an official announcement is yet to be made by the director.

Nagendra Prasad is the youngest son of choreographer-actor Mugur Sundar, and the brother of popular filmmakers and choreographers, Prabhudheva and Raju Sundaram. A well-known choreographer himself, his latest work will be seen in Vijay Sethupathi's *Laabam*. He has acted in two Kannada films — *Chithra* and *Manasalla Neene* — and his experience behind the camera comes from working as an associate in Prabhudheva's directorial projects — *Vedi* in Tamil and *Rowdy Rathore* in Hindi.

Meanwhile, Puneeth is looking forward to the release of *Yuvarathnaa*, even as he is shooting for Chethan Kumar's *James*.

Krishna will be tying the knot with Milana Nagaraj on Feb. 14. On the work front, he is currently busy with the post-production work of *Love Mocktail 2*, and has signed *ShriKrishna@gmail.com*, directed by Nagashekar. He will also begin shooting for Deepak Aras's *Sugar Factory* in January-end, and has signed another project to be directed by Deepak Gangadhar.

Puneeth Rajkumar

Neeraj Pandey announces *Special Ops universe*

CE FEATURES

FOLLOWING the success of *Special Ops* (2020), Hotstar Specials has announced the launch of the *Special Ops universe*, created and conceptualised by filmmaker Neeraj Pandey and Friday Storytellers.

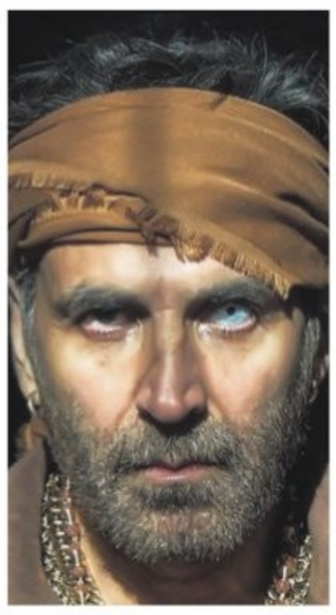
For the first time in India, multiple characters, stories and seasons will co-exist within a universe in a multi-series format, giving audiences a new way to enjoy thriller and action series. To kick things off, Kay Kay Menon is returning as Himmat Singhto relate his backstory in *Special Ops season 1.5: The Himmat Story*. The new series will form a pivotal part of the universe.

Special Ops season 1.5: The Himmat Story goes back in time to 2001 and explores the formative years of Himmat Singh as a R&AW agent and how he uses his wits and intelligence for a different operation. While the show is slated to launch later this year, the makers have released an intriguing first look. Much like *Special Ops*, this series will also be shot across multiple international locations and promises to scale up the action and drama.

Sunil Rayan, President & Head, Disney+ Hotstar said, "Within weeks of its launch, *Special Ops* emerged as one of the biggest shows of 2020. We're excited to venture in this nonlinear format of storytelling that brings alive an entire universe, where stories and different characters can simultaneously co-exist. The scale at which this is being conceived is enormous and speaks of our passion for creating world-class entertainment for our audiences."

Director Neeraj Pandey said, "*Special Ops* was conceptualised as a universe which will go beyond the regular narratives of linear seasons and conventional storytelling; and the ensemble of cast and characters does lend itself extremely well. The response by the audiences demanded that we embark on the journey. We are starting off with a unique *Special Ops 1.5*, which is neither a prequel nor a sequel and with this the audience will be witnessing the backstory of the main protagonist Himmat Singh. The series will start with Himmat Singh being assigned to another case, but the deflection point is the same parliament attack that started the series of events. It will be narrated across three episodes approximately an hour long each."

Bachchan Pandey to be released on January 26



CE FEATURES

THE Akshay Kumar-starrer *Bachchan Pandey* is scheduled for release on January 26 next year, the actor has confirmed in an Instagram post.

The announcement came with an image that Akshay shared on the platform. In the picture, Akshay sports a rugged look with beard, chunky chains and a false eye. "His one look is enough! *Bachchan Pandey* releasing on 26th January, 2022!," the actor wrote as caption.

Akshay, along with Kriti Sanon and Jacqueline Fernandez, started shooting for the film in Jaisalmer on Wednesday. Shoot will continue till March. The team is expected to shoot at places like the Gadisar Lake and Jaisalkot.

In the Farhad Samji directorial, Akshay plays a gangster who aspires to be an actor, while Kriti plays a journalist who wishes to be a director. The film also features Arshad Warsi as the hero's friend.

Balepet will be a dark comedy with no bloodshed or murder: Director Rishikesh

CE FEATURES

BALEPET is a gangster drama, but the twist in this tale on rowdyism is that there is no bloodshed or murder," says director Rishikesh, who has based his fictional subject in and around Balepet. The film's teaser opened to a good response when it was released last weekend. According to the debutant director, who has handled multiple responsibilities for the film, including story-writing, cinematography and editing, says *Balepet* is a dark comedy that carries biting sarcasm, underlining the message about why people should not go on a wrong path. "The film is a gangster drama told in an entertaining way," Rishikesh adds.

Balepet has Pramod Bopanna and Anitha Bhat playing the lead roles, while Umesh Banakar will be seen as the antagonist. The cast also includes Mayur Patel and Abhishek Matad in prominent roles. Its music is composed byLohith.

Balepet is being made under the banner, RVS Production in association with Dot Talkies. It is now in the post-production stage, and the makers plan to release it in May. Rishikesh brings in his experience of working as a cinematographer and editor in many films, and this is the first time he is handling directorial responsibilities.

> *Balepet* is a dark comedy that carries biting sarcasm, underlining the message about why people should not go on a wrong path
>
> — Rishikesh director

A still from the film

The King's Man release date pushed to August

CE FEATURES

THE King's Man has been officially pushed to August 20, this year. The period action spy film, directed by Matthew Vaughn and starring Ralph Fiennes, was originally slated for release in 2019.

Disney and Fox were set to release *The King's Man* in 2019 but eventually moved it to 2020 due to issues with incorporating Fox's and Disney's calendar releases. However, the COVID-19 pandemic once again pushed the film, and now Variety has reported that the film, which was slated to hit the theatres on March 12, will be out on August 20.

Brie Larson to star in *Lessons in Chemistry*

CE FEATURES

Actor Brie Larson will reportedly star in and executive produce the drama series *Lessons In Chemistry*.

Susannah Grant, who was previously nominated for an Academy Award for writing the screenplay for Erin Brockovich, will write and executive produce the series for Apple. Jason Bateman and Michael Costigan are also associated as executive producers, while Apple Studios will produce the project.

The series is based on the upcoming debut novel from author, science editor and copywriter Bonnie Garmus.

Set in the early 1960s, *Lessons In Chemistry* is about Elizabeth Zott (Larson), whose dream of being a scientist is put on hold in a society that thinks that women belong in the domestic sphere. Elizabeth finds herself pregnant, alone and fired from her lab. She then accepts a job as a host on a TV cooking show, and sets out to teach a nation of overlooked housewives, and the men who are suddenly listening, a lot more than recipes, even as she craves a return to science.

RGV: *D Company* will be mother of all gangster films

CE FEATURES

FILMMAKER Ram Gopal Varma has shared the first look of his new film *D Company*, which he says will be "the mother of all gangster films." In his tweet, he added that it "will tell the story of the FATHER of GANGSTERISM whose name is DAWOOD IBRAHIM."

Sharing the film's first look, he wrote: Here's A PEEK into *D COMPANY* First Look TEASER : The MAHABHARAT OF UNDERWORLD ..Produced by SPARK @SparkSagar1 it is going to tell the story of how DAWOOD IBRAHIM with his BILL GATES like vision,turned a street gang into an INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

Following his previous film *Company*, which was released in 2002, RGV has titled the upcoming movie *D Company*, which is based on on the Mumbai based-D Company, headed by Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar.